

# Underdog Pandas set to defend National title

TREVOR PHILLIPS  
Sports Writer

To capture the program's sixth National Championship, the Alberta hockey Pandas have to overcome some unusual adversity. For the first time since 2001, the Pandas are heading to the big dance at the University of Ottawa not only as an underdog, but without the first-seed—a seat they have held for the better part of a decade.

"We have always been first, and there has been that pressure with being number one," Pandas head coach Howie Draper said. "[This year] we are the underdogs going in as the [third]-seed, so it will be interesting to see how we respond."

This means that the Pandas will be forced to play three games in three days to capture the gold medal. It's an unusual scheduling quirk that helped them capture gold last year and will cause problems for the Pandas this year. Even with the two-hour time change though, both players and coach seem confident in their conditioning.

"We are in a really tough pool, and we have a good rival with Laurier having met them the last two times in the gold medal game," Pandas captain Kaye London noted. "We won't have a problem [adjusting to the time change]; we will have a couple days off until we play."

"It is a tough draw this year with Laurier and Ottawa in our pool, but the hardest thing will be playing three games in three nights to win it all. It will certainly be a test of our endurance," Draper added.

The pressure on the defending



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**FIRST THE CONFERENCE, THEN THE WORLD** The Pandas have finished dominating Canada West and take on the rest of the country in Ottawa this weekend.

champs doesn't stop with the shorter schedule and the underdog status. The Pandas also carry with them the responsibility of success, and having that crown atop their heads is something Draper thinks is more of a bulls-eye than a shield.

"There is a little bit of a target there," Draper said. "But, that target has been there all year in Canada West play, and we have been up to the challenge."

In the ten years of women's hockey in the CIS, no club has been honoured

and rewarded more than the Pandas. They own nine conference championships and seven national medals (five gold and two silver).

"It means that you know how to be successful and how to win those big games," London said. "We have won championships and lost championships, and that experience teaches you how to be a champion."

The Pandas arrived in the capital Wednesday afternoon, and will start their title defence Saturday night. While

the schedule makes things more difficult for Alberta, it also gives them an extra day to prepare for the unfamiliar competition, though Draper noted that he doesn't plan on deviating from what got them to Ottawa in the first place.

"You can't really make any changes at this point; you just hope that everything you taught and worked on is going to benefit your club in crucial situations," Draper said. "You just let them go; you're a tactician, supplying your players with information and

staying positive."

The Pandas will need all the positives the coaching staff can supply to climb the biggest hurdle they've faced in the program's young history. Alberta will play the loser of the Ottawa-Laurier game Saturday night at 7:30pm and then play the winner of that same game Sunday night at 7:30pm. Should they win both, they will then play in the CIS Championship Monday night at 7pm, which can be seen live on the Score.



FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENIAUS

**A CHANGE OF ATTIRE** Aaron Schulha (4) no longer wears the Green and Gold. Instead he spends his time coaching some of his former teammates.

## From a Golden Bear to the bench

Aaron Schulha's road to the team's coaching staff took him through Denmark

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Staff

When the Bears volleyball team struggled this season, Aaron Schulha wished he could throw down his clipboard, don a jersey and jump on the court.

Schulha played for Alberta from 1999–2001 and again in 2004/05, but with his playing days over, the former Bear is now taking a Masters in coaching and finds himself in an assistant coaching role this year alongside head coach Terry Danyluk and long-time assistant Dale Johns. For Schulha, one of the biggest challenges is sitting on the sideline when the action on the court gets heated.

"It's been tough not playing this year," he notes. "I kinda wished I could play, especially when things weren't going as we had hoped on the court at some points this year. You really get the itch to be out there and wish you could do more about it."

The transition from player to coach hasn't been an easy one for Schulha—son of athletic director Dale Schulha—who says that he found it difficult to change his mindset completely over the last season.

"The big [challenge] that I noticed was changing that role from friend and teammate with a lot of the guys to the coach-player relationship," Schulha says. "I did have a tough time at the beginning knowing how to separate

the two—I'm still good friends with the guys off the court. But ... when we're at practice I have that coach role and they have that player role, and it needs to stay that way."

After graduating from CIS volleyball, Schulha went to Denmark to play professionally last season. His trip was made easier because he played with former Golden Bear Jeremy King, who graduated the same year. The pair also lucked out with a Canadian coach, so they didn't have to learn Danish.

"Getting to check out a different culture and make some new friendships was great," he says. "I was pleased with the way I played and it was nice to kinda get away from the guys I had gotten so used to playing with; knowing that I could do it on my own without that great surrounding cast at the U of A was nice. When I went to Denmark they expected me to be one of those guys that gets 15–20 kills a match, so that was probably the most rewarding thing."

Yet a touch of homesickness, and an offer from Danyluk to take an assistant coaching position brought Schulha back to U of A. He notes that working with Danyluk, one of the most respected coaches in CIS volleyball, is an honour and a great opportunity to learn more about the game. Over his 14 years as Alberta head coach, Danyluk has amassed an impressive win record of over 75 per cent. He's coached the

squad to two national banners and six Canada West titles, and is a four-time CIS Coach of the Year.

"[Working] with a coach like that, you can learn a lot," Schulha says. "He is probably the most knowledgeable guy I've met with respect to the sport of volleyball. He knows everything about every possible position and everything about the sport, and it's great to see a mind like that at work."

For Danyluk, the choice to bring in Schulha was an easy one when considering the type of player he was.

"Our selection of [young coaches] is based on personality traits and their ability to work within the team structure," Danyluk explains. "Aaron was the epitome of a team person; he was a great leader on our team; he worked really hard, and he brought all of those characteristics in as an assistant coach. He not only provided us with some leadership; he provided us with ball control, and he provided us with a work ethic that was very similar to what he had as a player."

Danyluk shouldn't reveal too many trade secrets, however, as someday fans might even see Schulha as a head coach in CIS volleyball.

"The reason why I got into this Masters of coaching program was to hopefully be a college coach and then work my way up to university coach—that's definitely my plan," Schulha notes.



# Who's the best, Alberta or Wilfrid Laurier?

The Golden Hawks will destroy the Pandas and avenge last year



DAN  
PLOUFFE

point

Let me start by saying that I really hold no particular hatred towards the Pandas women's hockey team except that they aren't Wilfrid Laurier—and therefore suck. Furthermore, Paul Owen is a certified idiot, and he seems to think they're good—meaning they suck even more because he knows nothing.

Paul seems to think that the only reason Alberta isn't seeded first in this tournament is because they lost to McGill in a game where they didn't play their best players. I'll suggest that maybe you shouldn't lose to low-lights like Saskatchewan (7-16-1) if you want to be ranked number one.

The Golden Hawks lost fewer games than the Pandas this year, two to Alberta's three, and their conference is much stronger than Canada West. Fact is, while Alberta may have traditionally been the best program in the country, it's time to officially usher in the new era—an era that will begin once Laurier creams Alberta this weekend.

Veterans lead WLU on the front and back end, but the Hawks keep the talent flowing with youngsters providing depth throughout the lineup. While Alberta may have a few good front-liners, Laurier has weapons like Andrea Ironside and Lauren Barch who can turn defenders inside out, but who also provide depth away from the top line.

Paul can argue all he wants about history—like last year's fluky 2-1 Pandas victory—but if you're going to play that card, let's get the facts straight. Take, for instance, two years ago, when the Hawks slaughtered Alberta 4-1 in the championship match to end the Pandas 122-game undefeated streak—only one game of which came against Laurier. Paul will have you believe that that was all due to first-team All-Canadian goalie Cindy Eadie—now an assistant coach with the Hawks—but anyone who watched that game knows that Alberta barely even got into Laurier's zone until the third, when the Hawks were already ahead by three.

I fail to see how Alberta's 2000 title, for instance, will come in handy this year. None of those players are left. And don't forget that there isn't a player on the Golden Hawks who hasn't finished a season with a trip to Nationals, winning the past four OUA titles against top challengers from Toronto and Queen's.

When it comes down to their meeting in pool play, the Hawks will prove themselves superior. Their team will also be playing with added motivation from the 2006 defeat, and the desire to allow final-year assistant captain Fiona Aiston to celebrate a National Championship in her hometown.

Don't underestimate the impact of her group of purple-and-gold-painted supporters, like myself. Once Holly Tartleton pulls the puck from the net behind her—having been mystified by the incredible speed of Aiston, captain Laurissa Kenworthy and OUA Player of the Year Andrea Bevan—the unproven “Haw-lee” will be even more overwhelmed by the pressure of actually seeing some rubber directed towards her. A shaky goaltending situation means doom for Alberta; it's Golden Hawks all the way.



The '05/06 winners have more talent Dan, and your helmet's ugly



PAUL  
OWEN

counterpoint

Where's the love for the defending champs, Dan? After their victory last season made Jake Troughton look stupid for picking against them, I've learned to never predict the Pandas will lose. And with good reason: Lindsay McAlpine is the country's top scorer, Tarin Podloski is the only CIS forward donning a Team Canada jersey this year, and imposing 5'10" defenceman Rayanne Reeve has been called the Chris Pronger of women's hockey. Clearly your East Coast media bias is showing through here, as you've picked Wilfrid Laurier as National Champs.

I mean, don't you remember what happened when the two met in last year's final? A 2-1 Alberta win and a fifth National banner. Of course, only a dozen players on each team remember that—or perhaps women hockey players take too many pucks off the helmet and none of them are supposed to recollect that it was Alberta wearing gold after last season's final. And sure, you could cite 2004/05, when Laurier ended Alberta's 37 614-game undefeated streak, but WLU has changed so much since then that there's little point. Only seven of them are old enough to have been around for that, while six of the Pandas have double CIS gold. Experience counts Dan, and it resides firmly in the hands of the Pandas.

Of course, you could argue that this is a down year for the Alberta program. After all,

they did lose three conference games this year, almost doubling their previous all-time total of four. But the teams that beat them this season also suffered 7-2, 5-0 and 8-0 losses to the Pandas at different points in the season. This is a dominant hockey club, and while they may get complacent and take some nights off, it doesn't detract from the sheer amount of talent that hits the ice. Their mental focus is strong enough that the chances of them having a lapse on the national stage are low.

Besides, how is Laurier going to beat Alberta this year? How do they plan on scoring on a team that hasn't been scored on since 9 February—a stretch of 525:59? This defence has allowed only 29 shots in the five games since that goal, and

Laurier doesn't have the scorers to get past them. And Morgan Wielgosz may be the third best goaltender in the country, but Holly Tartleton is the second. On the back-end, Laurier is inferior in almost every way.

And it's not like they're any more adept up front. The Golden Hawks had two players average a point per game. Alberta had five, and Podloski and McAlpine both averaged over two en route to leading the country in scoring. All five of those Pandas are in the top-20 in the country in scoring. WLU is pitting an inferior offence against a superior defence, while the Pandas offence could probably outscore the Laurier men on a good day.

It's just a shame that they're in the same pool so that Alberta can't flaunt their gold medals after kicking around Laurier as though they were UBC for the second-straight year. As it stands, the Purple and Yellow will have to settle for bronze while the Pandas prove that green and gold really do look good together. Still, at least we can agree on one thing: fuck McGill.



## Evolving Equality

### Hate Crimes & Human Rights

What You Should Know and What You Can Do to Create a Safer Campus Community

**March 21, '07**  
5:00-6:30pm  
Room 165  
Education South Building

- > Sergeant Robinder Gill  
Edmonton Police Service's  
Hate and Bias Crime Unit
- > Kristopher Wells  
Member, Edmonton Police  
Chief's Advisory Council

All members of the university and larger community are invited to attend this **FREE** event.

Sign language interpreting and real time captioning services will be provided.

This event is in recognition of March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

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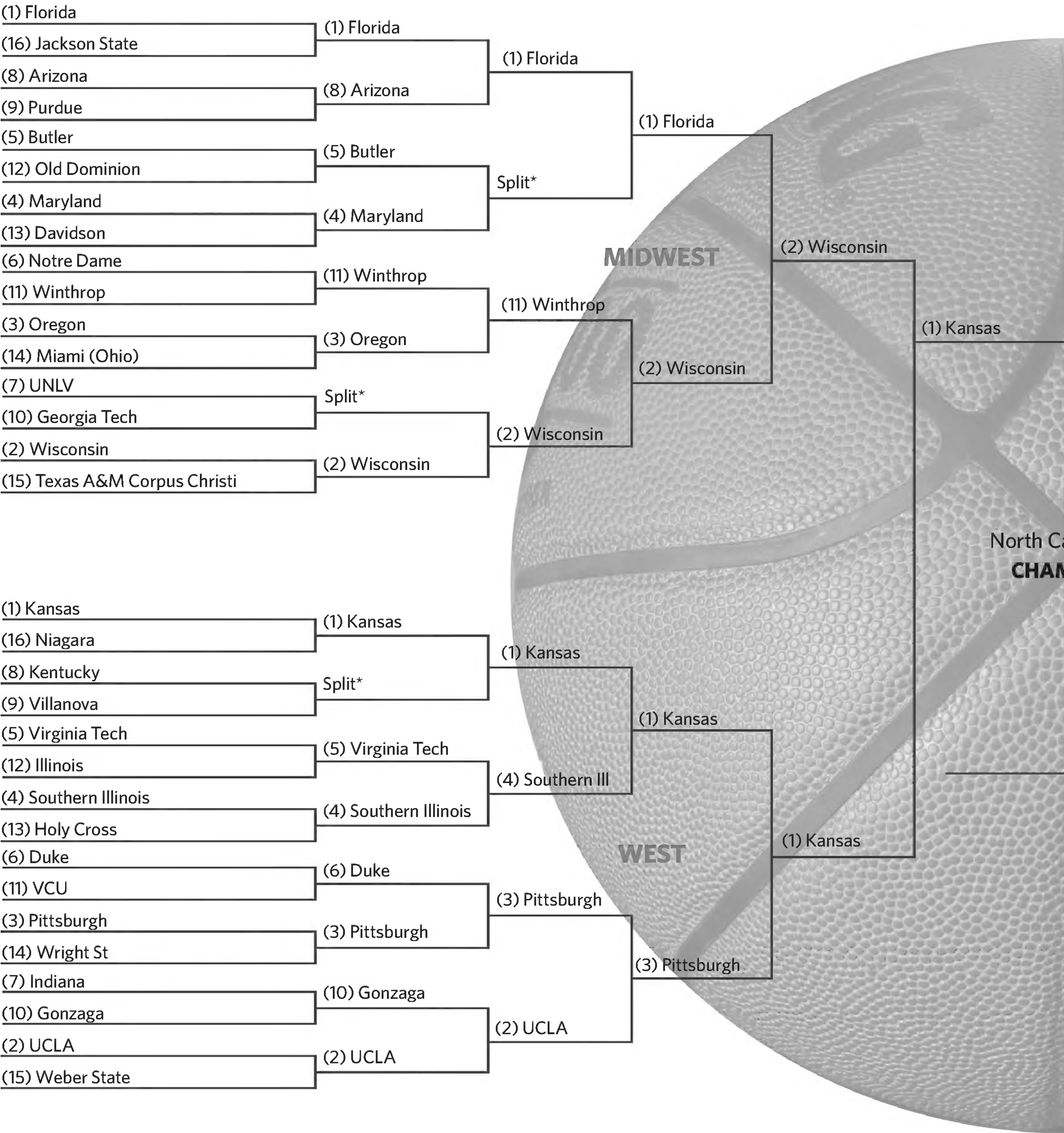
BUSTING TH

The Gateway goes crazy f

The most boring stretch of the sports year has finally concluded—from the Super Bowl until now, poor sports fans have been forced to suffer through a severe lull in activity. Sure, the NHL and NBA seasons continued to plod along, but beyond those, there has been a severe lack on the athletic front. That all ends today, however, as 32 teams will kick off March Madness in search of the NCAA men's basketball title.

Last year we informed you that Michigan State would go deep, the SEC Champion would falter and that midnight would strike for Cinderella in the Sweet 16. We told you Gerry McNamara would bolster Syracuse in the post-season, and Duke, Conneticut, Georgetown, Villanova, Gonzaga and Memphis were potential Final Four teams. Of course, Michigan State was upset as a sixth seed in the first round, and Florida rolled through the SEC and the Final Four to win the whole thing. George Mason ran their eleven-seed into the National semifinals, McNamara shot 0–6 in the Orange's first-round upset and not a single of our Final Four picks made it—only three even hit the Elite Eight. The lesson here is clearly that last year was an outlier for college basketball. No one knew what was going on in the league, and neither did the teams participating, as none of the top seeds made the Final Four, yet George fucking Mason did.

Also, just in case last year's "experts" didn't know what they were talking about, we decided changes needed to be made. In an effort to do a better job of not getting everything completely wrong, Chris watched more college basketball and Paul followed it considerably less, and we added two more writers to the panel. We even filled out an entire bracket instead of just alerting you to the good teams and potential busts. What we've discovered is that this year the good teams are very, very good, while the bottom half of the brackets aren't impressive. Overall we predict that the top teams will, for the most part have an easy time getting through their brackets, and this year will be the opposite of 2006's tournament, where the underdogs had a field day. We see very few obvious upsets out there, and even fewer questionable high seeds—Washington State being the only one none of us are confident in. Sure, there'll be a twelve who upsets and five—an upset that has happened a third of the time since the tournament's current format was adopted in 1979—and the best coaches will push mediocre teams through the first round, regardless of seeding, but beyond that the favourites should take care of business.



>> The Contenders

University of North Carolina

The Tar Heels have been one of the best programs in the country all season long, and for good reason. Tyler Hansbrough is unstoppable, even with a broken nose, though you could see that he was uncomfortable wearing the protective face mask in the ACC tournament. UNC will need their leading rebounder and scorer to find his comfort zone once more, but we think he will, which is why they're our pick to win the whole thing. Backing Hansbrough is athletic big man Brandon Wright, who's hitting a ridiculous 66 per cent of his shots as the second option. Point guard Ty Lawson is efficient and spreads the ball well on offence, while also having the ability to create his own shot. If anything can undo UNC, however, it's their lack of experience. Wright, Lawson and fellow guard Wayne Ellington are all in their first years out of high school, while Hansbrough's only a sophomore.

University of Kansas

Our other National finalist has the deepest team in the country. Mario Chalmers, Brandon Rush

and Julian Wright all have the ability to take over and dominate a game to get the Jayhawks a win. Additionally, when one guy catches fire, his teammates have become adept at finding him and getting him the ball. Three Jayhawks average over 3.0 assists per game, while Wright and Rush dish for 2.2 and 1.9 respectively. The Jayhawks are another young team; however, they're without a single senior on their roster. And, while Wright has been impressive on the glass this year with 8.0 rebounds per game, Kansas prefers to play a smaller, more athletic lineup, making them susceptible to a team with a solid post presence. And we can't shake that early season loss to Oral Roberts.

Ohio State University

The Buckeyes would be the kind of team to give Kansas troubles, with probable first-overall NBA draft pick Greg Oden anchoring the middle. Oden's played with an injured right wrist all season, keeping it wrapped and relying on his left hand. Still, the 7'0" freshman has averaged 15.5 points, 9.7 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game. OSU also has ballsy point guard Mike Conley Jr, who feeds Oden the ball for most of the game, but has the ability and desire to take big shots late in games. He's also one

of the better defensive guards in the country. OSU's only losses this year are to Florida, Wisconsin and UNC, making them one of the few top teams in the bracket without an embarrassing blemish on their record.

University of Florida

The Gators have looked lackadaisical at times this season, but they've still managed to put together one of the best records in the NCAA. Returning all five starters from last year's championship squad, Florida is still lead by juniors Taurean Green, Joakim Noah, Al Horford and Corey Brewer. The four give the Gators the size, speed and athleticism to play against any team in the country, and Horford, Noah and Brewer are all potential lottery picks when they finally leave school for the greener pastures of the NBA. To be successful, however, the team will need to avoid the complacency that has plagued them in losses to Florida State earlier in the year, and Vanderbilt, LSU and Tennessee in the past month.

Georgetown University

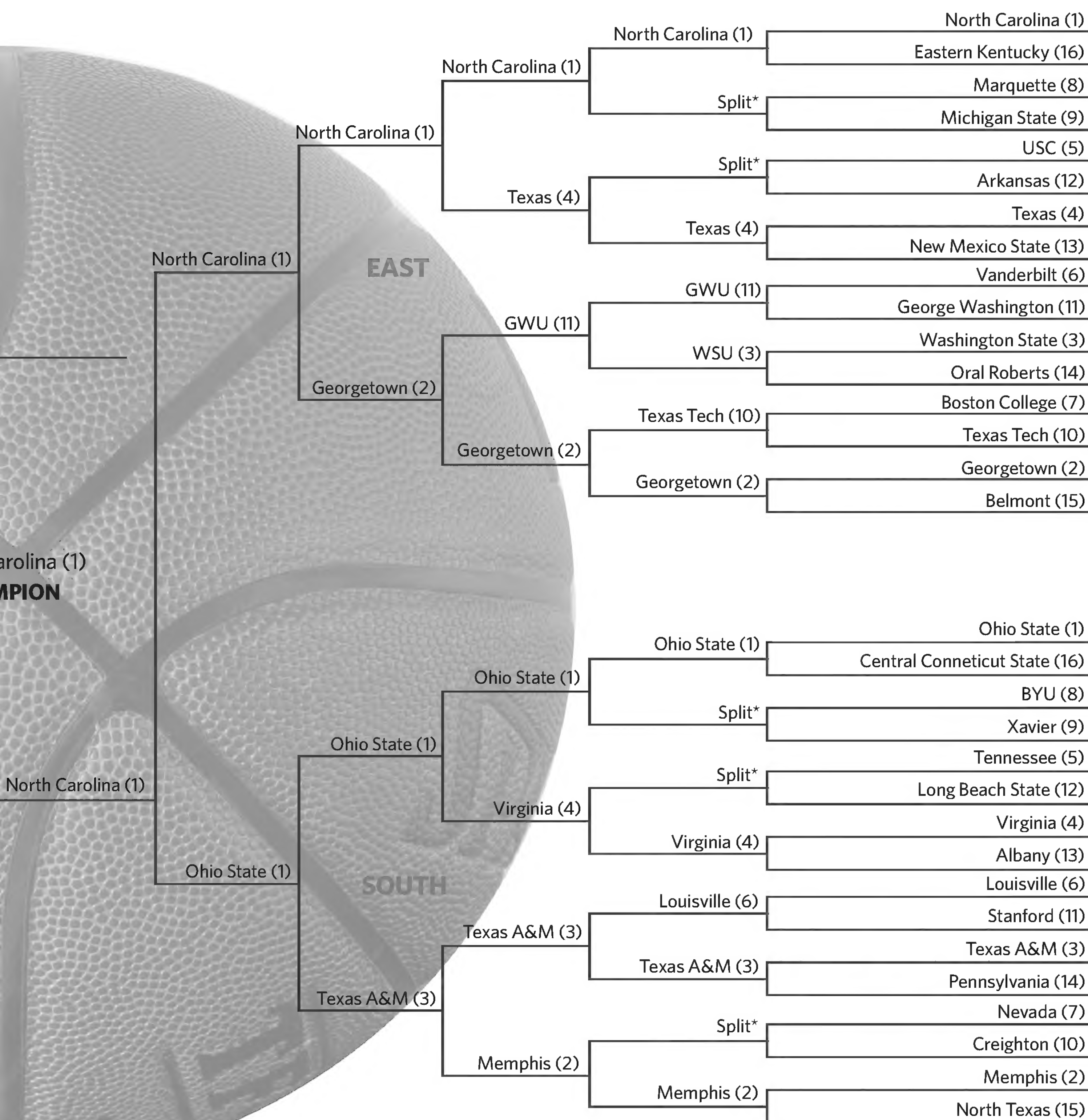
The Hoyas made it out of arguably the toughest conference in the NCAA, becoming Big East champs with a convincing win over Pittsburgh. Jeff Green



# THE BRACKET

*written by Paul Owen, Chris O'Leary, Nick Frost and Trevor Phillips  
photos by Aleena Reitsma and Erinne Fenwick*

## for NCAA March Madness



\*No consensus could be reached on split matches, but by our numbers, neither stands a chance against their opponent in the next round.

is one of the most well-rounded swingmen in the country, and Roy Hibbert, a 7'2" centre, is the latest in a long line of standout big men from Georgetown. The Hoyas' downside, however, is that neither of those guys has the ability to win the tournament single-handedly for his team, and their supporting cast is nowhere near as strong as the four earlier teams on this list.

## University of Pittsburgh

The Panthers were soundly defeated by Georgetown in the Big East final, but they should have fewer matchup problems with their potential opponents in the West bracket. Led by senior centre Aaron Grey, Pittsburg will have to play lockdown defence and play efficiently on offence to have hope of making it to Atlanta for the Final Four. Also against them is that they're 2-6 against ranked opponents this season, though the two wins did come in the Big East tournament.

**Texas A&M University**

The Aggies have played some of the competition in the country this year: Texas, UCLA, Kansas and LSU. While they bowed out early in the Big Twelve tournament, Acie Law IV is still one of the more

entertaining guards in the tournament, and the Aggies have experience in the Big Dance, upsetting Syracuse as a twelve-seed last year. Law will hit the big shots for A&M if they keep it close late into games.

## University of Texas

The Longhorns are a contender for one reason alone: Kevin Durant. The 18-year-old has been the best player in the country this year, averaging 25.6 points and 11.3 rebounds per game, and throwing up ridiculous box scores like 37 and 23 against Texas Tech, 37 and 16 versus Colorado, and 37 and ten in the Big Twelve final against Kansas, which was in his third game in three days. If fellow freshman DJ Augustin plays in control and head coach Rick Barnes remembers that he has the most dominating college basketball player in the country on his team, then Texas could be playing into April.

## >> Upset Specials

**Winthrop University**

The Eagles came close to knocking off highly touted Gonzaga last season, and this year they're back with

another veteran squad. Michael Jenkins is one of the best and most frequent three-point shooters in the NCAA, and the Eagles have an athletic squad and a coach who aggressively pressures other teams with his full-court defence. With a weak bracket and a first-round meeting with Notre Dame, the Eagles have legitimate Sweet 16 dreams.

## George Washington University

The Colonials had a very good squad last season that many believed would make a lot of noise come tourney-time. Instead, GWU made barely a whisper as they exited in the second round. This year, no one has any expectations on the Colonials, who had a much less impressive season. But, they still retain many of the players from last year, including leading scorer Maureece Rice.

**Virginia Tech**

It's kind of hokey to call a five-seed an upset special, but the Hokies have been bracket busters all year. They beat Duke in Durham and UNC twice, including in Chapel Hill. Of course, VT has been upset their fair share as well, but if they make it far enough, they could be the team to knock off Kansas.

### >> *Matches we'd like to see*

## UNC/Texas in the Sweet 16

You've got a potentially classic matchup in the post, as Tyler Hansbrough from UNC will try to contain the versatility of Texas' super-frosh Kevin Durant. The sure-fire lotto pick (if he chooses to leave) will probably win the battle between the two, but look for UNC to win the war. The Tar Heels are almost custom-made for March Madness, and with Roy Williams as their coach North Carolina can feel confident entering the tournament as the top-ranked seed. They're solid, but I don't see Texas surviving the shit storm that the tournament brings about. Carolina on the other hand, have sails on deck that are made of three-ply toilet paper. The winds of shit will hit both teams, but the Tar Heels will be the only team standing after the storm subside.

## OSU/Texas AM in the Elite Eight

Texas A&M will undoubtedly try to push the pace against the Buckeyes, but Ohio State should counter by pushing the ball inside to Greg Oden and allowing him to control the game. Should it still be close in the final minute, Mike Conley Jr and Acie Law IV are two of the best clutch shooters in the country this season. A&M's uptempo attack and Ohio State's methodical approach can't coexist, so whoever wins that war will be the team that advances.

### Pittsburgh/Kansas in the Elite Eight

It's always intriguing to watch matchups that feature two teams that should be considered on their heels. In Kansas' case, it's because of their first-round exits two years running, and for Pittsburgh, it's because they suffered most of their losses heading into the tournament. With both of these teams feeling as though they have something to prove, the desperation factor should play a key role in making this potential matchup an edge-of-your-seater. Look for Brandon Rush and Mario Chalmers to be big factors should this matchup happen. However, Pitt will counter with a heightened readiness to play on both sides of the ball—something they should do all tournament long. Aaron Gray will step up and be the leader and motivator that the Panthers so desperately need to make the Final Four.

### Florida/Arizona in the second round

While 'Zona has been disappointing this year, they are easily the most talent of the eight and nine seeds. And with Florida playing like the shakiest of first seeds, a matchup between the two could mean an early exit for the defending champs. The Wildcats will counter Florida's experienced lineup with veteran point guard Mustafa Shakur and freshman forward Chase Budinger. If the duo get hot from beyond the arc, they could catch the Gators off guard and signal an early exit for the Gainesvillains.





## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### **The Lives of Others**

Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck  
Starring Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe and Sebastian Koch  
Garneau Theatre  
Opens Friday, 16 March

*Das Leben Der Anderen* details the story of Captain Gerd Wiesler, a member of East Germany's secret police during the reign of communism as he's assigned to the task of spying on a famous playwright and his wife who may be dissenters. It won the Academy Award this year for Best Foreign Film, an impressive achievement considering that it was Donnersmarck's directorial debut. As such, a little-known scene was caused earlier on during Oscar night when, prior to him winning for *The Departed*, Martin Scorsese lunged at Donnersmarck with a chokehold, screaming that he was a lazy asshole who hadn't paid his dues.

### **The Long Winters**

With Team Building and TV Heart Attack  
Friday 16 March at 8pm  
Victory Lounge  
Tickets \$15 at Megatunes, Listen and Blackbyrd

It's ironic that The Long Winters are playing Edmonton just as our weather is starting to improve. Hailing from Seattle, the Winters bring their straightforward rock to town, a sound similar to The Dudes or The Weakerthans. They're on tour supporting their new album *Putting the Days to Bed* and are backed up by Team Building, and TV Heart Attack, a Vancouver band named after their TV was mistakenly tuned to an episode of *Two and a Half Men*. The television's subsequent pains in its jaw and upper chest region were unfortunately ignored and defibrillation proved fruitless.



### **2007 U of A Amnesty International Benefit Concert**

Featuring Souljah Fyah, All Else Fails, The Grassroot Deviation and Wish  
Friday 16 March at 7:30pm  
Powerplant  
Tickets \$10 advance at HUB, SUB, and CAB Info Booths, \$12 at door

Come out Friday and support human rights at the U of A Amnesty chapter's annual concert. Featuring local talent as diverse as the reggae of Souljah Fyah and the folk rock of The Grassroot Deviation, the show will also feature a Capoeira display and a "stellar surprise band," who will hopefully prove sonically talented, saving listeners from any ironic cruel and unusual punishment.

### **Impressions from Turkey: Recent Prints by Aysegül Izer & Emre Senan**

FAB Gallery (Room 1-1 Fine Arts Building)  
Running until 24 March

Expressing both a love for their homeland and their thoughts on the use of cranberry to make a particularly gamy bird palatable, Aysegül Izer and Emre Senan tactfully display their passion for art and poultry in this new FAB Gallery. A professor of Graphical Arts at Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul, Izer presents a mix of lithography, screen and mixed multimedia printmaking, while Senan, a prominent Turkish designer, presents his digital animations and screen prints. The gallery is the Department of Art and Design's first project with artists from Turkey, as well as their first exchange with the Mimar Sinan University, and has been described as succulent and juicy by critics.

JOHN KMECH  
A&E



# Slam poetry, praise music

Despite Canada's wide geography, CR Avery hopes that slam poetry will spread across the nation

### **CR Avery**

With Mihirangi  
Saturday, 17 March at 7pm  
Velvet Underground

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Slam poetry has yet to make a wave in Canada the way it has in the States—its birthplace—and in other countries, such as Germany, Nepal and the UK. However, CR Avery can attest to the growing slam poetry scene here at home, most notably on the West Coast.

Originally from Ottawa—where, according to Avery, the slam poetry movement was next to non-existent—the beat-boxing, singing, harmonica- and keyboard-playing one-man band arrived in Vancouver at around the same time that the slam poetry movement was gaining momentum. Today, Vancouver, which has been sending poets to the States in the last ten to 15 years, could be called the slam poetry centre of Canada.

"In the early years, Vancouver was the only Canadian representation [in the American National Poetry Slam]. And it still is," says Avery, who has been participating in slam poetry competitions since 1998. "Winnipeg sent a team one year but poetry's really big out here on the West Coast."

But other cities are catching on. Avery points out that Winnipeg, Halifax and Calgary all have growing slam poetry scenes, and while it's a little new to Toronto, poetry has always been big in the city. Avery also recalls that Montréal sent a team to the National Poetry Slam one year and mentions that one of the city's poets, Alexis O'Hara, is fairly renowned worldwide.

"I just think the geography of Canada is a little crazy to unite everyone," Avery says. "In the States, you've got New York, Philadelphia, Providence, Boston and everything is closer. Then within New York itself, there's three different slams going on. So I think as far as geography in Canada, there are these bigger spaces between cities."

From being referred to by Bob Holman as the "democratization of verse," and by Harold Bloom as "the death of art," the slam poetry movement has fuelled some rather heated debates about what poetry is all about. A type of spoken-word performance, slam poetry is usually intended to be performed at poetry competitions. In the 1990s, it was strongly associated with the hip-hop style but in recent years has taken to a variety of performance styles, writing forms and cultures. An attempt is also made to break down barriers between performer and audience, one of the reasons why props and costumes aren't allowed in some slams. In Avery's case, he couldn't play the harmonica.

"But you were allowed to use the other poets that you went with [from your respective city] when you performed," Avery says as he describes the loophole. "So instead of going up by myself, a lot of the time we would bring up the other poets and we'd be doing different musical things. So I kind of used the other people that I went with as my harmonica."

Known for having more than a hundred performances a year, Avery is back on another Canadian tour in support of last year's album *Chainsmoking Blues*, which has been compared to the sounds of Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen. Just four months earlier, Avery was touring in the UK. He never fails to be blown away by European fans.

"I listen to a lot of obscure music in the sense that it's not played on the radio, and they just knew that stuff better than me," Avery says. "A lot of people don't know who Sonny Terry and Sonny Boy Williamson are, but they had all this knowledge of old blues guys and they just ate it up. It's not a put-down to Canada. DJs [in Canada] aren't playing what they want to play on the radio. I guess there are tons of kids that would be turned on by so much great music and it's hard to get your hands on it. But I think the Internet is changing that a lot. I know there are pockets of amazing people in every city and I guess I go on tour to find them."

## AVERY BODY'S TALKIN'

• Avery was born August 20, 1976.

• In 2005, won CBC's Poetry Face-off.

• The Be Good Tanyas lent some background vocals on *Chainsmoking Blues*.

• He's been performing with Shane Koyczan and "Mighty" Mike McGee in the spoken word trio Tons of Fun University since 2003.

• One of his solo tracks ("Pocketknife") on TOFU's unreleased EP *The Them They're Talking About* (2005) also appears in *Chainsmoking Blues*.

• Was a former member of The Fugitives.

• Avery be heard on two tracks of Po Girl's *Vagabond Lullabies*.

• Writer of six hip-hop operas including "Freight Train Land" (2001) which was performed in New York and Los Angeles, "Shotgun Wedding" (2002), and "Gonna Change My Tune" (2004).



# Denver's The Fray know how to weave a life

## The Fray

With Kyle Riabko  
Monday, 19 March at 7pm  
Edmonton Events Centre

LACINA DESJARLAIS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With hit songs like “How to Save a Life” and “Cable Car” being featured on shows like *Grey’s Anatomy*, you might expect Denver quartet The Fray to be a bit full of themselves. However, according to drummer Ben Wysocki, The Fray are just normal guys.

After a Cinderella-esque charge to fame when their fans petitioned a record label to get them signed, Wysocki and his band mates Isaac Slade, Dave Welsh and Joe King found themselves suddenly famous, but Wysocki says he never knew he’d be where he is now.

“I never really thought that my dreams would come true; it’s really been sort of a surprise and it’s just really exceeded my expectations and all the guys’ in the band,” Wysocki says. “We’re sort of just soaking it up.”

Talking to Wysocki, it seems you’d be hard pressed to find another celebrity more humble and down to earth about their accomplishments than he is. Even when it comes to keeping a cool head in the face of obsessive teenage fans and a plethora of media hype, he’s reluctant to take all the credit for himself.

“It helps when we think about how, if we quit making good music, no one would care anymore,” Wysocki explains. “Plus we’re all married and our wives really keep us grounded more than anything else because we’ll



come home from a tour, and they’re just waiting for us to take the trash out and help them do dishes. Home life and our families are really important for us, because that’s what it’s all about, at the heart of things.”

For Wysocki it appears home life and domesticity really are at the centre of his life. He and his wife are looking forward to becoming parents one day, and he admits that some of his current hobbies—aside from playing music—fall under the heading of “geeky” and domestically inclined.

“I really like interior design and

architecture,” says Wysocki a bit shyly. “I subscribe to architecture and home magazines and when I’m on the bus, I like to read about the designs of living rooms and things. I haven’t bought a house yet but I can’t wait until I do. I’d love to have my own home and put my own cabinets in my kitchen.”

However, domestic bliss isn’t the only thing the guys of The Fray seem to crave—they also have a hankering for a party. While it might be assumed that in the habit of rock stars a hotel-room-trashing good time might be in order, Wysocki assures that they just

don’t roll that way. Their idea of going buck wild, he says, is going out to eat at five-star restaurants.

“We’ve kind of learned that we’re a little boring and some people are disappointed because they want to hear party stories or crashing hotel room stories but we don’t really do that,” Wysocki laughs. “The craziest that we get is when we go to nice restaurants because guitarist Dave [Welch] really likes food a lot. He reads about food and he reads about wine and so if somebody else—like a record label—is paying to take us out to dinner,

then Dave picks and it ends up being a really nice place because record labels will pay for a lot for really nice food.”

But besides lavish dinner parties, the members of The Fray have other future plans.

“Right now it’s learning how to stay where we’re at instead of taking steps back,” Wysocki says. “It’s just maintaining the fans we’ve acquired and figuring out how to do that and how to keep people interested in what we’re doing. The goal in five years is to still have people listening and buying our music—that would be pretty sweet.”

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## A Monster outside the closet

### Monster

Directed by Kevin Sutley  
Starring Nathan Cuckow  
Runs 15-25 March at 8pm  
Theatre Network

LACINA DESJARLAIS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

From movies like the *Saw* trilogy and *Hostel*, to video games like *Man Hunt* and *Grand Theft Auto*, it seems that violence has become *de rigueur*, and Kill Your Television Theatre's production *Monster* aims to have audiences questioning why.

After winning a Sterling Award last year for their production of *The Glass Menagerie*, actor Nathan Cuckow and Director Kevin Sutley decided to scale back and this year do something a little less grandiose. Daniel McIvor's *Monster* is a one-man show that'll feature Cuckow playing no less than twelve different roles.

"The story is more about presenting ideas, and asking questions of the audience concerning how they feel about the violence that they see in movies or on TV and in video games, and how it affects people," says Cuckow.

*Monster* explores the issues of violence and the motivations behind it through the eyes of a number of different characters. The story largely features a young boy named Adam, follows a man murdered by his son,

as he narrates the details of this grisly event that later become the character's inspiration for a movie.

However, Cuckow isn't quick to attribute violent behavior solely to what's seen in the media, although he says that it may contribute to the drastic actions that many people, particularly teens, feel that they need to take.

**"People have this individualist attitude of, 'Me first and get out of my way.' That attitude is very prevalent in North American culture."**

**NATHAN CUCKOW**

"I'm certainly a fan of horror movies, and I can watch them and not want to go out and do that to someone, but what is it that made those Columbine kids break into the school and start shooting away?" Cuckow asks. "I don't think it was just video games, but maybe they contributed."

"Obviously, [the Columbine shooters] were picked on and bullied and they didn't feel like they fit in and then they find this outlet, these video games where you can just senselessly kill people," Cuckow continues.

"Maybe, in some way, that contributed to them being able to dehumanize people and look at them as objects and just fire away."

According to Cuckow, the societal dysfunction that has driven our increased desensitization towards violence is in no short supply. The current North American attitude seems to be directed toward selfish pursuits.

"People have this individualist attitude of, 'Me first and get out of my way.' That attitude is very prevalent in North American culture," Cuckow says. "Maybe that has something to do with economic systems like capitalism. I think this could be tied to why people embrace violence in video games and movies—it could be a way to cope. We seem to lock ourselves up and watch these things as a way to deal with all the societal dysfunction around us."

While *Monster* may seem all doom and gloom, Cuckow assures that this isn't the case and that audience members won't just be faced with a lot of heavy subject matter—they'll also have the chance to let out a laugh or two.

"For such dark subject matter, it's darkly funny," Cuckow explains. "There are lots of laughs and lots of things to be entertained by. It's perhaps some of the questions that are brought up that are sort of darker in subject matter."

### TRY AND LOVE ME



### Dustin Cole

*Try and Love Me*  
Independent  
www.dustincolemusic.com

ALYSSA PANKIW  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

*Try and Love Me* might add texture to

your musical library, but don't expect it to fit perfectly upon your first listen. A debut album is always a risk, and Dustin Cole and The Specialist's first collaboration disc is no exception. Both organic and technically executed, it can be likened to that one article of clothing that you debated buying because it doesn't match the rest of your wardrobe—an accent piece, if you will.

Ambient backbeats from The Specialist (also known as Lane Arndt, who's also a part of the Edmonton-based prairie-roots band AA Sound System and who's helped produce a few local albums) support wispy vocals supplied by singer/songwriter Dustin Cole, and produce a collection of tracks that, at first, sound

awkwardly mixed—kind of like that killer pair of jeans that are really uncomfortable when first tried on.

However, after a second listen, you'll start to realize how brilliantly the album has been produced; the quirky lyrics paralleled by soft-core techno tend to grow on you. The individual words and complementary sounds start to mingle in your mind, and certain tracks stand out for their original take on played out subject matter. The mellow "Vague and Vanishing" and the heavier "Midas Touch" conceptualize a new definition of the male ballad. By the end of *Try and Love Me*, Cole's nine-track musical experiment with Arndt will really start to win you over, so don't hold back from buying it.



# The first, last Albertan pirates

## Captain Tractor

With Michael Weston King  
Saturday, 17 March at 8pm  
Starlite Room

MIKE SMITH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

What do you get when you combine Maritime spirit with prairie ingenuity? No, it's not the fair city of Fort McMurray, but instead local folk rockers Captain Tractor. Fusing Celtic culture with western rural spirit, the Edmonton-based quintet offer fans a unique sound that showcases the multiculturalism our province now enjoys, and their monkier testifies to this fusion.

"We put a bunch of words in one hat that had things about the prairies, and some words in another hat about the ocean," jokes Chris Wynters, the group's lead vocalist. "We didn't get anything good."

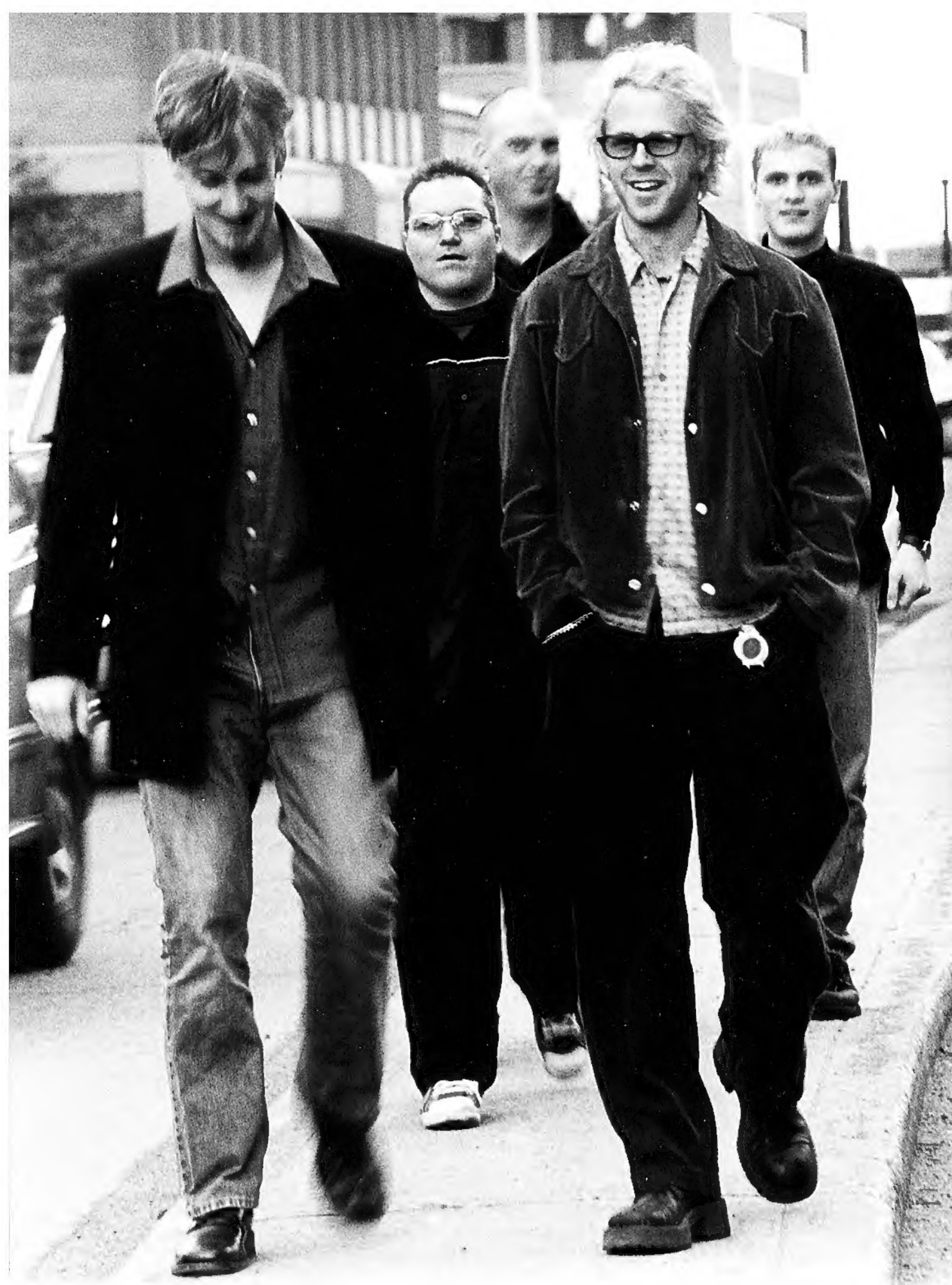
Although the random selection didn't necessarily work, they eventually came up with their moniker using a similar mode of thinking, and *Captain Tractor* was born. And while many drunken revellers at local pubs across the city may best remember them for their quality cover of The Arrogant Worm's "The Last Saskatchewan Pirate," they've also released seven albums over a decade-plus career.

Captain Tractor's many years of experience in Edmonton give them an excellent vantage point for our rising local scene, but not always with enjoyable results. The group felt the loss of the venerated local venue the Sidetrack Café particularly strongly.

"We played the last night of the old Sidetrack before it moved locations," Wynters reminisces. "We were really involved with it, during the middle era, the '90s. Until the end, it was one of the great music venues in Canada."

With the Sidetrack's closure still a fresh memory, he admitted that this city can be a difficult place to make a living as a musician, and emphasized the need for local artists to branch out and tour, even if they want Edmonton to remain their home.

"Captain Tractor probably would've



gone a lot further if we had moved to Toronto at the height of it. But I don't regret that we didn't do that," Wynters says. "Edmonton has been good to us. You can call anywhere your home, but if you are on the road enough, it doesn't really matter where that home is. I think it's really important for Edmonton writers and performers to be out there."

The members of the band took this to heart, and through their years they've enjoyed considerable support, not just locally but also across the country, touring abroad as far as New Zealand. In recent years they've eased off, giving up the frenzied touring schedule to support personal projects and family life. It's little wonder, then, that Wynters is ready to elaborate on the grueling schedule.

"For six years we played over 200 shows a year, across the planet," Wynters says. "We don't plan to get into a van and tour Canada again anytime soon. We all have families now, and houses."

Although the band has shifted to a slower gear, they continue to perform semi-regularly, and they can now focus on playing for the love of their music. Playing on St Patrick's Day for the first time in many years, it should be as exciting for fans as it is for Wynters, who is enjoying the slower schedule.

"For the better part of ten years, Captain Tractor was our main source of income," Wynters explains. "All the shows we play now are fun because they're all shows we want to do. We're not playing Moosejaw for 50 bucks and a case of beer."

# A little poetry goes a long way



PAUL  
BLINOV

Poetry: you likely know it as either the crap depressed high-school students write or as the bane of your first-year English class. Maybe you write the occasional dirty limerick, impressing your friends with what you can rhyme with "bucket," or have joined a face-book group which claims that haikus are the ultimate devices of hate. You may have even used Spark Notes for Shakespeare, you lazy ass, as does almost everyone else.

Truth is, though, the most poetic that students openly get these days is by putting My Chemical Romance lyrics in their MSN names. As the up-and-coming movers and shakers of the world, we can do better than that. It's a form of expression that's survived from the early Greek societies onwards to the present day. Surely it can find a more prominent place in

our hearts.

Greek thinker Aristotle classified poetry into three rigid genres: epic, tragic or comic. Furthermore, throughout history, poetry was rigidly defined by each culture it was found in—a specific rhyming meter, or deep allusion or particular genre did a good poem make, and few alternatives were acceptable.

But don't let yourself be daunted by these seemingly impossible regulations. Aristotle's been dead for thousands of years, and there isn't anything of him left to turn in his grave should you stray from such rigid definitions. If that sandwich you're munching on tastes pretty good, you've got the basis for a knockout poem.

We're in the age where poetry of all cultures borrows from each other, and free verse is common and accepted, meaning whatever rhythm or level of allusion you wish to write in is perfectly acceptable.

Maybe you'll only find yourself writing when you're feeling sad and lonely. But what about using that written angst as a springboard into love?

If finding a good conversation starter with that attractive girl in your class has been keeping you up at

night, your own written prose is the solution. Should she be an exchange student, write something sweet and slip it to her then use an online translator to put it into her native language! She'll melt into butter and soon be in your arms. A quick tip, though: run the finished translation back through the program to make sure it the grammar holds up, unlike that French project you just put through the translator and just handed in. Nasty grammatical mistakes may ruin the whole thing.

Poetry's a versatile and dynamic form of expression that can save your ass in countless ways. Did you forget about a special date with your steady, or have no cash for a romantic dinner? Poetry can be quick and painless, and stems from the heart, not the wallet. Shouldn't that mean more, anyways? If you're an aspiring songwriter, make sure your lyrics don't suck by giving yourself a little practice away from the guitar.

Canadian poet-musician-legend Leonard Cohen published his first collection of poetry while still in university. It's about time you picked up the pace and started writing down some of those funny feelings you've been having.

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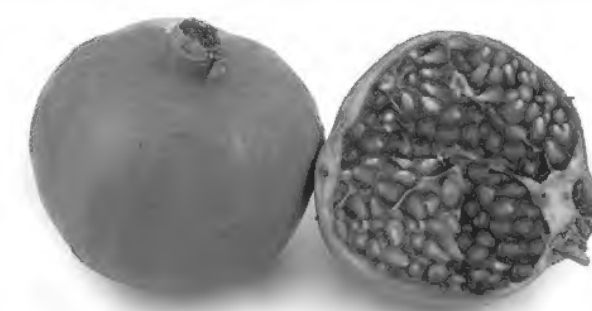
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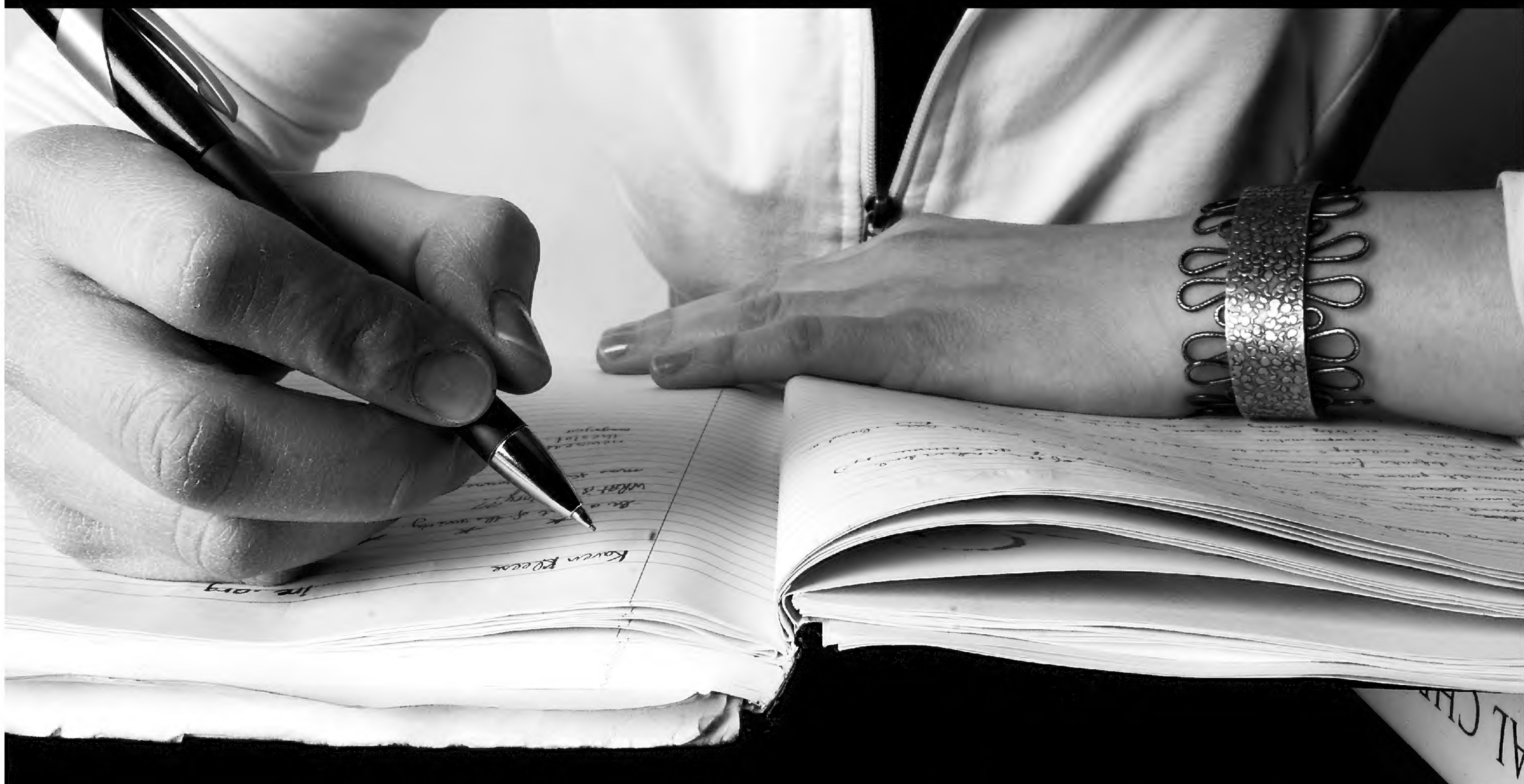
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# THE GATEWAY

# Literary 2007

# Contest



After a year of hiatus, the annual *Gateway* literary contest is back, giving aspiring scribes here at the U of A the opportunity to stun us with their words and photography skills. For over a month, our inboxes have been inundated with dozens of submissions, and hours of deliberations left our panel of judges, comprised of *Gateway* editors, struggling to choose the best ones. While some of us still don't entirely agree (having different inclinations about what makes a good author/photographer), we present to you our subjective top picks.



**First place entry**  
*Scarfinger and Fred*  
by Stacey Sokolan

Most drivers of lonely highway stretches pick their noses. You can ask them, but you know, all you'd get is bunk. Believe me: I've ridden up in a semi cab for years and years now, and all the data I've collected points to a plague of nose-picking. Seriously, cellphone-clutching businessmen, harried mothers—everyone does it, but they're all in denial. Yep, every one of them.

I thought I had witnessed enough human contradictions during my short stay on a drugstore countertop back in my hometown. It's painful, admitting that I haven't seen it all, but I'll take it like a man and do my admitting.

If you want to know the truth (and I'm assuming you do, because you already listened to my scandalous secret of the human nose), I'm not a man—not even made of flesh and hemoglobin, actually. A machine squeezed me out, rather than an agonized, sweaty woman, but, like most humans, I can't recall those early years.

Ah well, no one wants to remember their factory days, but d'you ever wonder if something horrible happens to humans during infancy and the whole excuse of the "brain's memory neurons still learning to make connections, yadda yadda yadda" is all a conspiracy?

I'm telling you, I get too much time to think. I remember Bud, though. Yeah. Bud was the guy who rescued me from the drugstore countertop, though I never really saw it as "rescuing"; we plastic bobble-head basset hounds were so popular at the time, we didn't stay on the countertop long.

(Alright, another confession: We were designed to sell. A competition amongst the branches of the drugstore chain ensured that the sales quota of our kind was met every day. There. Now can you trust what I tell you? You'd better. I'm a straight-up hound.)

Driven by Bud, I sat sentinel on my dashboard position during haul after haul, listening to his own "conspiracy theory" talk. Occasionally, Bud would allow hitchhikers to use the empty passenger seat, and those events grounded me a bit. Taught me that Bud was relatively sane—his reasoning for picking up those diverse creatures was that he'd sometimes rather talk to humans than a plastic dog.

"Yer fine company, Fred, and a better listener," he once explained to me on a stretch of highway heading north. We were hauling a load of paper products—tonnes of napkins—to fast-food restaurants in Alberta's northernmost communities. (At least I think that's what we were hauling. Bud never explicitly explained our loads' contents to me, so I made

the best inferences I could.) "Problem with you is, I get tired of all yer agreein'." I suppose that was why he didn't mind hauling people who believed we were all going to die a horrible death tomorrow, when Jupiter falls out of orbit, hurtling toward Planet Earth.

The reality of Bud never recognizing my opinions or emotions did hurt, but my ultimate lesson in pain was to come from one of the "crazies" Bud lifted from a rain-drenched highway, that same day he candidly dissected my assets and flaws.

"Gawd dammit, Fred," Bud drawled. "If you don't start sayin' somethin', I'm just gonna hafta ..." He trailed off, realizing the futility of finishing a sentence directed to a plastic bobble-hound. His gaze left the road a moment and caught something on the shoulder.

Determined sheets of rain had pelted our semi all day.

"Won't be able to sleep tomorrow if I don't lift this poor feller," Bud reasoned aloud. Hearing his thoughts gave me importance—the keeper of Bud's dark secret—the secret that underneath that emerald-green mesh cap, and beneath the snap-up blue down vest, lived some compassion.

That guy he picked up didn't look very poor, just wet. A lost expression in his hollow face and the visible veins in the hand he used to hoist himself into the seat struck something deep in my plastic being.

"Where ya headin', Chief?" Bud interrogated.

"City, up north—visiting my sister." The passenger made determined eye contact with me, awakening my memory.

Being a sedentary creature, my observation skills were finely honed. Not like there's much else to do all day.

About five years ago, I witnessed a guy, about 30, slide prescription painkillers and antibiotics over the drugstore counter via his right hand—the one with five workable digits. Gauze covered the ring finger of the left one, and he paid quietly. Nothing out of the ordinary, but later, that ubiquitous gossip birthed a fascinating story.

"So she said that Rose-Marie's cousin's doctor's receptionist heard that the guy—you know, the one who sliced his finger off on that table-saw—he had AIDS ..." (whispering the acronym self-consciously), "... and never told anyone. Just let it bleed like crazy while he stuck the amputated finger in his cooler and drove to the hospital."

"All kinds of kooks around this town—makes you want to wear surgical gloves." "Could've been blood on that cash used for his pain medications that day! We should get tested."

If my eyes were moveable, I would have rolled them against Betty-Ann and Marjorie and Tilly-Mae's ignorant reports.

The subject of that ancient legend was the man sitting across from me in the cab, confirmed by the scar on his ring finger: a remnant of the digit's reattachment.

I know these things. My plastic nose may impede a preternatural sense of smell, but my memory more than makes up for that.

"What's the problem?" (Bud's compassion—there it is—ripping through all that fat and fabric!)

Scarfinger hesitated. Looking at my nodding snout encouraged him, and he broke.

"Work injury, few years back—sliced my finger right through the bone—shocking experience. The wife asked about my gold ring's condition first—that's Jean for you. Man. I lost a lot of blood while they reattached it—got some transfusions to compensate. Transfusions carried HIV, though—that was before they really knew to test thoroughly for that stuff. Now it's developed into AIDS—learning to live on borrowed time."

"Fella, that's horrible," Bud consoled, hit by this fragmented speech. "What about a court settlement? I heard about those, way back in the day. Could have yerself a nice Mustang to drive to a five-star hospice—why're you taking this route?"

Scarfinger looked both resigned and determined.

"Buddy, I've seen a lot of people who think money's the way to rewind and record over the evils of the past. Well, that ain't true, and we know it. Sure, I could get a lot of cash—for what? For Jean to buy a wider wedding band to cover my scar? I couldn't buy her a method of escape from the town gossip; from her own self-righteousness. Couldn't save her from the humiliation I brought her. So that's why I said, 'The hell with it!' I'd rather spend my last days with real people, not the plastic kind."

I wondered if he accepted plastic dogs, and I also wondered how long he'd been rehearsing his manifesto. Years? Did he use his time on the side of the road to collect his thoughts, trying to warm his icy-soaked body with optimism? Damn, whatever keeps you afloat.

We were at the city limits. "Gotta let you off here, law says," Bud explained. "City bus stops at that there post up the road." He pointed, placed some change into Scarfinger's palm. "Oh, and here."

I changed hands. "Fred may be plastic, but he's the most agreeable character you can find."

Yeah, I've observed countless hours of human behavior throughout my life, and nothing ever changes—they all pick their noses when they think no one's looking, and deny it even when they know someone's staring right at them. But the few who dig all that garbage out with no apologies are still my favourite.

**Short Fiction**  
1500 words or less



KELSEY TANASIUK

**Runner-up**  
*There Was*  
by Kayleigh Cline

I was standing on the corner, waiting for the walk light so I could return to my apartment. Five people stood with me. I had crossed this corner countless times with countless forgettable people, but this time, because of what happened afterwards, I would always remember their faces.

There were two businessmen, immaculately dressed. One had a mole on the very tip of his nose. The other's face was wrinkled up around his blue eyes. There was an old woman with a walker that had three grocery bags hanging on it. Behind me, there was a very short and very round woman with large emerald earrings hanging from her dangling earlobes. And then there was a young woman who looked like she was maybe just out of high school. Her hair was cropped short, but it flopped around playfully in the wind. I could not see her face, for she stood directly before me. The traffic was zooming past in a blur of colours. As I stood on the corner, I was trying to decide what to make myself for lunch.

The young woman pulled her arms back behind her and let her backpack slide to the ground. I expected her to turn around and pick it up, but she didn't even look back. She simply stepped forward... off the corner ...into the path of a truck.

The truck swerved, but it didn't hit her. All the cars slammed on their brakes. She was left standing before them.

She looked around and blinked as a chorus of horns rose up around her. Then, she walked off the road and stepped back onto the corner just as the walk light finally turned.

All five of us were speechless. She glanced at us all and gave us a wry smile as she shrugged her backpack back on.

"Oh well. Better luck next time," she said cheerfully.

Then she bounded off across the street. After a moment of shocked silence, the five of us numbly followed, and then went our separate ways.

Once back at my apartment, I sunk onto my couch and placed my head in my hands. One question rebounded through my mind:

"Next time?"

We, the five people on the corner, knew that the young woman would try to kill herself again, but what could we do? We did not even know her name. Who could we tell? Who would care?

The next morning, I was standing on the corner again, waiting for the walk light so I could return to my apartment. I thought of the young woman.

Then, slowly, I let my briefcase slip from my hand. I stepped off the corner. And the truck didn't miss me.

"Hold on," said God, "I don't follow. Why did you kill yourself?"

"Um ..." I swallowed. "Aren't you God? Shouldn't you know? Don't you know everything?"

He smiled and leaned back in His chair.

"Yes. But I'm not convinced you know why you killed yourself. That's why I ask."

I sighed.

"It was because of the young woman."

God cleared His throat.

"That is not an answer."

"I know, I know. It's hard to explain."

"That is still not an answer."

I wished I had a pen to chew on to try and get my thoughts in order.

"I guess ... Well, it's not because I didn't want to live in a world where a girl could try to kill herself and nobody

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >



# THE GATEWAY

volume xcvi number 40 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 15 march, 2007



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

**PIPE BOMB** He might have had high hookah hopes, but Cunningham's plans for a series of tubes in the 'Plant dissipated.

## Hookah plan goes up in smoke

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Hookah, shisha, nargeela, argeela, okka, kalyan, ghalyan or hubbly bubbly—there are about as many names for water pipes as there have been Students' Union schemes to turn the Powerplant into a profitable business. However, no one expected that the image of students sitting in the notoriously low-profit bar smoking from a long hose would almost become a reality.

Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham surprised the SU Executive at their 26 February meeting when he announced he had spent \$400 on three small hookahs

and accessories.

"Everything was good to go and then I came back to Exec and said, 'Okay, I'm going to institute this tomorrow,' and they shut me down," Cunningham explained.

Hookahs are large water-pipe devices that use water-filtration and indirect heat to smoke a variety of substances, such as herbal fruits and tobacco. They originated in India but spread in use throughout the Middle East and more recently have become increasingly popular in Europe and parts of Asia.

According to SU President Sam Power, while the Executive Committee had previously encouraged Cunningham to research the idea of hookahs, they had never given it a green light.

"[Cunningham] came to me and said that he had bought the hookahs and so I said, 'Well I don't think that Exec approved the purchase of hookahs—we approved exploring the idea of hookahs,'" Power said, adding that herself and the other Execs didn't feel hookahs fit in with the vision of what they want for the Powerplant.

"It's really more the mandate of what we're doing with the space," Power said. "Ultimately, because we had ... decided we'd be going a different route with the Powerplant, and sort of looking at creating more of a student space, we felt that maybe hookahs didn't really fit in the same vision of the 'Plant.'"

PLEASE SEE **HOOKAH** ♦ PAGE 5  
ALSO READ **GAUMONT** ON PAGE 9

## SU may raise fees to combat deficit

SCOTT LILWALL  
Deputy News Editor

Undergraduates might be paying more for Students' Union services next year after Students' Council gave the go-ahead to raise student fees in the hopes of combating a projected deficit for the 2007/08 fiscal year.

"We refused to cut Councillor remuneration and the Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS), and shot down the possibility of running a small deficit, so this is an unfortunate last resort, but a necessary," Councillor Stephen Dollansky said. "It's just unfortunate that it came to a fee increase and not one of the other options."

The proposed student fee increase was added on as an amendment to the SU's budget principles during an emergency Council meeting on Tuesday night. The proposal would allow the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) to raise student fees

to make up for increased expenses in the next year. The vote came down to a 13–8 decision to approve the amendment.

Councillor Jonathan Tieman, who voted for the increase, said that it was necessary for the SU to make up lost funds.

**"It's just unfortunate that it came to a fee increase and not one of the other options."**

STEPHEN DOLLANSKY,  
SU COUNCILLOR

"Like most in Council, it was a reluctant [yes] vote," Tieman said. "We don't want to have to raise fees, but obviously when we're looking at the situation ... it was the only reasonable [choice]."

PLEASE SEE **BUDGET** ♦ PAGE 5

## Enrolment bust warning

Report says student demographic will soon decline

RAMIN OSTAD  
News Staff

A report released by the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation cautions that the country could see a population bust by 2020, and says that universities need to increase postsecondary participation in students from lower-income groups.

In the February edition of their flagship publication, entitled, *The Price of Knowledge, 2006/07: Why Access Matters*, the foundation determined that the postsecondary-aged population will decrease in size by approximately 300 000 students by 2026. As the "echo boom" generation—the children of the baby boomers—begins to enter universities and colleges, the report states, there'll be a slight increase in postsecondary enrolment at Canadian institutions, followed by a sharp decline after the year 2013.

"Right now, what we're going through in this country is a demographic boom," Joseph Berger, one of the report's authors said. "Every year for the next three or four years there are going to be more and more 18–24-year-olds. What will happen in the next 15 years is there will be a decline in the population. There will be fewer people trying to fill up the increasingly larger spaces of university campuses."

One of the main concerns presented

in the report is that the impending decrease in the number of highly educated individuals will result in shortages of skilled workers in a currently booming economy. This will result in fewer and fewer people of working-age supporting a larger non-working age group.

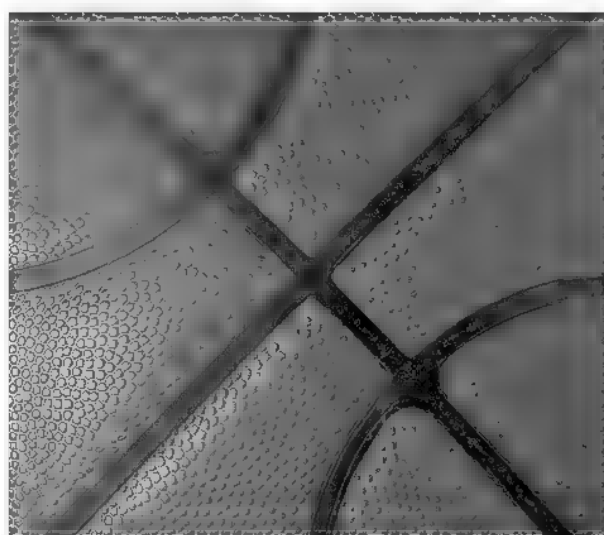
"The way we see it is that [this is] in addition to the fact that we're currently not graduating enough young people to meet the needs of our current labour market," Berger explained. "That situation is going to get more and more dire, especially when the population ages and we have a larger share of the population in retirement, drawing on the social safety net. We need to be a more productive society to meet their demands, and the way to do that is to enroll and graduate more and more students."

The foundation states that, in order to maintain the number of postsecondary graduates despite a decrease in actual population size, there must be significant efforts made to provide education access to under-represented youths—specifically those from low-income families, those from families with no history of postsecondary education and aboriginal youth. However, the report adds that it isn't the sole responsibility of the universities to provide this access, but that governments also have a large role to play.

PLEASE SEE **BUST** ♦ PAGE 2

### Inside

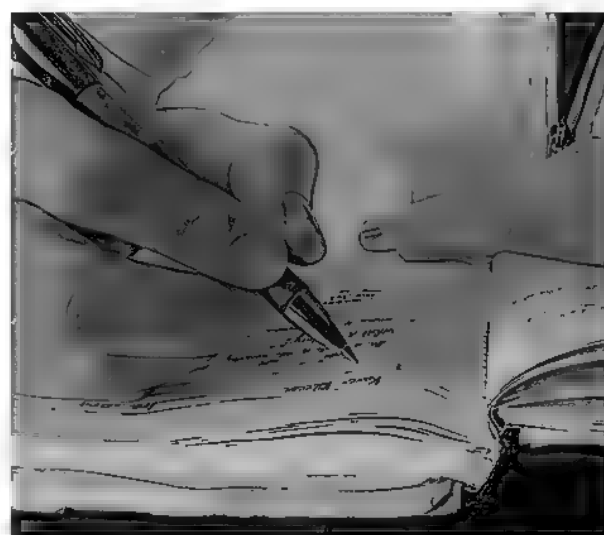
News	1-6
Opinion	7-9
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### Dive into Madness

The NCAA Tournament begins today, and we've got everything you need to pick a winner. (Hint: It'll be UNC.)

SPORTS, PAGE 13



### More flowery words

Our Literary Contest has arrived to up the intelligence quotient of our pages; after we eliminated the nonsense.

FEATURE, PAGE 18



could—would—do anything about it, which is what you might think. No. It was because... I was part of that careless world. I didn't care that she had almost killed herself, or even that she was going to eventually succeed in killing herself. I simply didn't care. And I hated myself for that."

"Hmmm ..." God grumbled. "So you killed yourself because you cared too much about not caring?"

I screwed up my face and took a few moments to try and figure out what He had just said.

"Yeah," I nodded. "That's exactly it."  
"Hmmm..." God grumbled again. "That makes things rather difficult. You're a writer?"

I nodded.  
"I was working in an office doing filing work to make ends meet though."

"Usually we have a special section of Hell reserved for writers, but your case is...difficult."

God chuckled to Himself.  
"That was a joke, by the way."  
"Oh," I said in a small voice.

"But what are we going to do with you. Basically, you need to learn how to truly care before you will be truly happy..."

God suddenly looked up. He gave me a keen look.  
"I know," He said softly.

I was suddenly back on the corner, but something was different. I was no longer behind the young woman, but directly to her right. I could see her face now. Her brown eyes were sunken beneath thin eyebrows. Her mouth was tight and small. Her face was round, and it made her look younger than I would have expected.

I gradually became aware of my own body: of the pain that flared up intermittently throughout my legs. I felt very tired. I then realized that I was gripping a walker between my blue-veined hands.

Then, I watched it all happen just as it had before. The girl stepped out in front of the truck and it missed her. This time, I could see a tall and ragged man holding a briefcase as well. I watched him pace off down the street towards a tall apartment building. I felt some pity for him stir in my heart. He, out of all of us standing on the corner, seemed to be the most shaken.

I used my walker to move down the street until I came to a dingy building. I placed my three grocery bags into an empty bin marked "Donations." I turned and walked away.

Then, I was back on the corner. This time I knew I was the man with the mole on his nose. I was conversing heatedly with the blue-eyed businessman. Suddenly I knew why: he was my father. I barely noticed the young woman until she stepped out into the traffic. After it was over, my father and I crossed the street. When we reached the other corner, I turned to my father and spoke two words:

"Forgive me."  
  
I was back on the corner. I was the older businessman with the wrinkled blue eyes. I listened to my son pour his heart out to me. I listened and then watched in horror as the young woman was almost hit. When we reached the other side, I heard my son ask those two words. I looked back at him.

"Of course."  
I embraced him and tried to pretend that it was just the wind that was causing my eyes to water.

I was back on the corner. I could feel my emerald earring dragging my earlobes down. My mind was racing, trying to sort out the complexities of life. The young woman stepped in front of the truck. I couldn't see what happened next because of the tall man in front of me, so I was afraid she was hit. Then,

thankfully, she walked back onto the corner.  
It was not far from the corner to the bus stop, and I did not have to wait long for the bus to arrive. When I reached my own neighbourhood, I got off and began to walk towards my own little house. But I stopped, instead, at the house next to mine. An empty wagon stood in the front yard. I slowly walked up the steps and rang the doorbell. A pale, red-eyed woman opened the door. She had tears running down her face. I reached out for her and let her sob into my shoulder.

There was suddenly a wheel before me. I was in the cabin of a truck. It was strange how easy it was to push on the accelerator—like the truck was an old friend of mine. I found myself in love with the way it purred beneath my touch.

I was driving through an older part of town: past apartment buildings and run-down restaurants. I felt like I knew the route well and had driven it everyday. It was one of those streets you could see all the way down: all the lights were green.

The girl stepped in front of me.  
I slammed on my brakes and swerved.  
For one sickening moment I thought I had hit her. Then, I saw her walk calmly back onto the corner. The other people on the corner stared at her: two businessmen, an old woman, a short woman, and a tall, ragged man.

I smiled at the man, but he didn't see me. He was too shocked to do anything but walk numbly across the crosswalk...to his apartment.

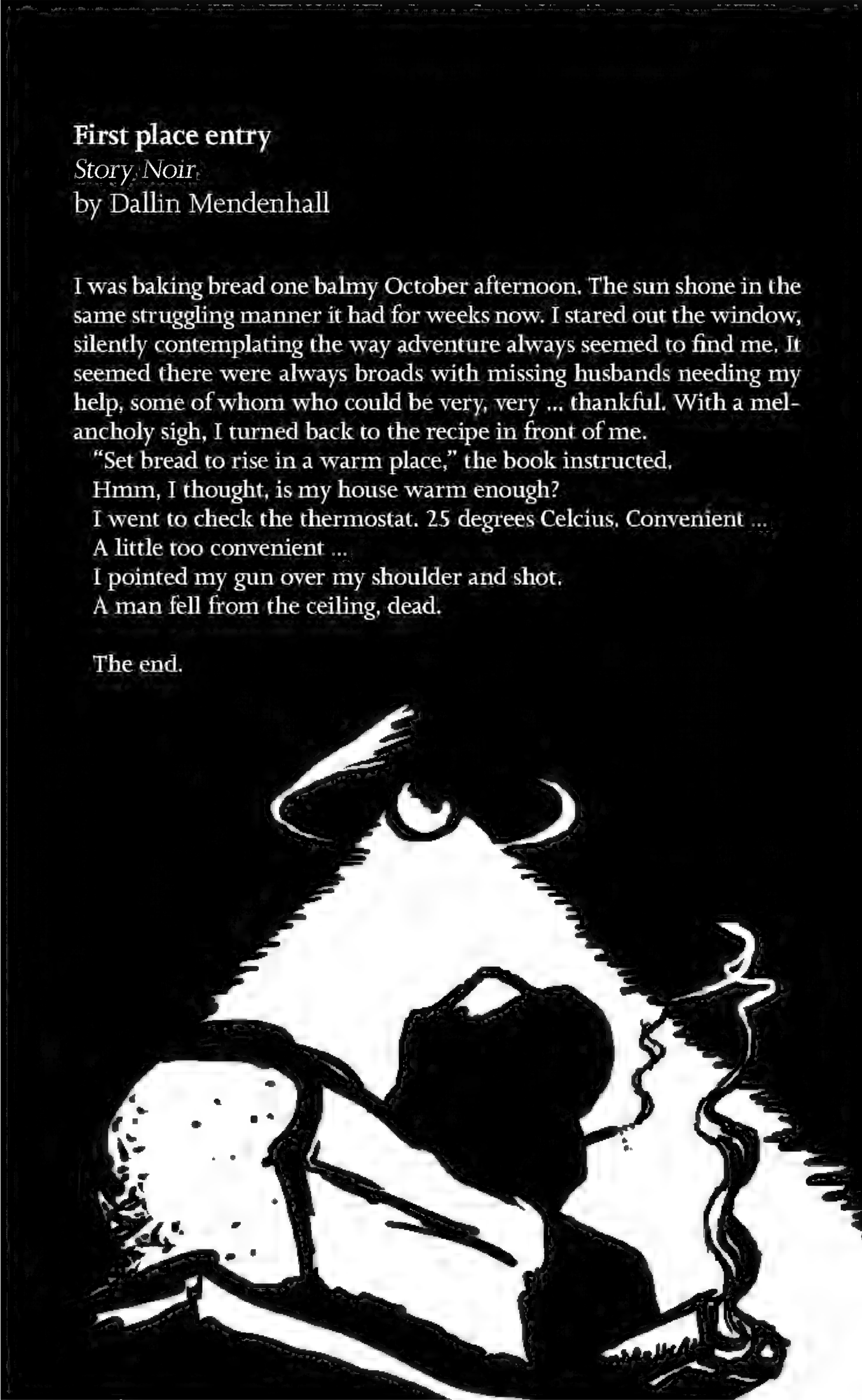
"So?" said God.  
"I think...now...I really do understand what it means to care."  
He nodded solemnly.  
And with that, there was nothing left for me to do...so I died.

First place entry  
*Story: Noir*  
by Dallin Mendenhall

I was baking bread one balmy October afternoon. The sun shone in the same struggling manner it had for weeks now. I stared out the window, silently contemplating the way adventure always seemed to find me. It seemed there were always broads with missing husbands needing my help, some of whom who could be very, very ... thankful. With a melancholy sigh, I turned back to the recipe in front of me.

"Set bread to rise in a warm place," the book instructed.  
Hmm, I thought, is my house warm enough?  
I went to check the thermostat. 25 degrees Celcius. Convenient ...  
A little too convenient ...  
I pointed my gun over my shoulder and shot.  
A man fell from the ceiling, dead.

The end.



Really Short Fiction  
150 words or less

Runner-up  
*A Pirate's Guide to the Ocean*  
by Jessica Faulds

The fish towards the top seem happiest. They spout mist. They can feel the sun, divided by the water into neatly discernible rays, sliding over their backs. In only a few million years, they could crawl ashore, and in a few million more they might watch television on infinitely high-resolution screens.  
Below that, in the upper-middle levels, there are dark fishlike shapes. These are probably fish. Seaweed strangles the light.  
Still further down everything is black, but there are probably a lot of those cleverly evolved fish that look like piles of dog vomit. The water feels like someone pressing the tips of pencils into your ears. It's impossible to slide your ankles out of the cannonball chains, and there's nothing there at the bottom that you can use to cut off your feet.

Runner-up  
*Untitled*  
by Sean MacDonald

I knew that I should have sped up. Now I'm stuck in that awkward zone five meters behind, and the inevitable is about to happen. Well, I've only myself to blame. His head turns back and the situation demands that our eyes meet. If I slow down and decline, those pleading eyes will taunt my conscious. If I speed up and accept, I'm forced into coughing up some pathetic appreciation. Damn it, experience should have taught me to avoid the awkward gap. His fingers slowly start to slip one by one, and his eyes soften and plead for my acceptance. This gracious offering from my peer only has a moment left before it expires and I hate myself for caving. I cringe as I skip a step and accept: "Gee, thanks a bunch bud," and I grab the door before it closes.



# Photography



Above: First place entry Jesse Lamb  
Left: Runner-up Yuen KiLai  
Below: Runner-up Sara Bohuch



## CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to  
www.campusclassifieds.ca

## FOR RENT

Looking for a place to live? Check out the Sun's Housing Registry! Hundreds of suites and rooms for rent. [www.rentingspaces.ca](http://www.rentingspaces.ca)

## SERVICES

Sick of So-p'tcn! The Edmonton Co-ed Softball Assoc's looking for players/teams. Inc two tiers, fast-pitch and orthodox. persona stats and payer of the week packages. For more info contact Cay 235-2529 or [www.ecsa.eague.ca](http://www.ecsa.eague.ca)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karma Tashi Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre, Lama Ani Kunsang resident teacher, invites students and staff to Buddhist meditation practice Wed 7pm and Sun 10am, 10502-70Ave, 633-6157.

## EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

Hudsons on Campus hiring for all positions please apply in person or e-mail to [arrett@hudsonstapnouse.com](mailto:arrett@hudsonstapnouse.com)

AttaCare Resources is looking for caring and energetic people to work with Edmonton children and youth. Flexible schedules, free training, starts at \$15/hr, priceless experience. Please call Brandi Smith 451-6040 ext 230, [brandi@teus.net](mailto:brandi@teus.net), [www.atacareresources.com](http://www.atacareresources.com)

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) is now accepting applications for Peer Educators for the 2007-2008 academic year. \$12/hour. Work around your class schedule. Application deadline: 23 March, 2007. Details available at CaPS (2-100 S.U.B.) and on the web at [www.ua.perta.ca/caps](http://www.ua.perta.ca/caps).

Part-time job for Spring. No evenings! No weekends! Out-of-school care is hiring for morning and/or afternoon shifts late April through 30 June. 439-1456 [windsofsparkafterschool@snaw.ca](mailto:windsofsparkafterschool@snaw.ca)

Mother's Helper for pre-schooler and baby. April through August '07 with option to extend. M-F 10am to 4pm. \$12-15/hour. Assist with childcare, light housekeeping, meal prep. Near UofA campus. Experience with children an asset. Please call Kim at 485-9865.

Ladies You Can Have It All! Work from home. Flexible hours, no selling, no inventory, no risk. Earn significant income, pay off student loans faster. Let me show you now. Contact Teresa Enge 780-473-0819 or visit [www.freedomatweatandwellness.com](http://www.freedomatweatandwellness.com)

Are you looking for the perfect summer job that will earn you tons of cash and provide a flexible schedule. If so the Catering Assistant position is for you. Start now as a part time employee and work full time in the summer. We offer above average wages, bonuses, gratuities and more. We are a so-nir-fu / part time Banquet Servers. A valid driver's license is required. Come join the many U of A students already employed at A Cappe a Catering. Email resumes to [kim@acappe.ca](mailto:kim@acappe.ca), or fax to 454.2748. Please state the position you are applying for.

Golden West Golf Course is now accepting applications for a Pro Shop, Restaurant and Grounds positions. Golf privileges with employment. Apply at 16410 137 Ave or [jobs@goldenwestgolf.com](mailto:jobs@goldenwestgolf.com)

Stratford YMCA Out-of-School Care program (8715-153 Street) requires part-time Child Care Programmers for 7-9am / 3-6pm shifts, M-F. Minimum 6 hours per week. Free YMCA membership. Gain great experience working with children ages 5-12. Full-time hours available in the summer. \$10-12 per hour. Email [cape@edmonton.ymca.ca](mailto:cape@edmonton.ymca.ca) or call 429-5705

## EMPLOYMENT - TEMPORARY

Excellent Summer Employment with Landscaping Co. Bobcat Operators/Labourers for 07 season. Experience an asset but will train. Start \$13-22/hour. 780-903-6066

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Cultura Connections Institute The Learning Exchange is looking for volunteers to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) to adult newcomers to Canada. Orientation and training is provided. Morning, afternoon, and evening shifts available. Call 944-0792.

Be part of something big. Be a Big Sister or Big Brother. We match you with a kid who enjoys doing the same things you do. You can also join in lots of great monthly group activities. Snare just a few hours a week, or every second week, having fun. It will make the world of difference to a child, and to you. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or apply online at [www.bpsedmonton.org](http://www.bpsedmonton.org)

## PERSONALS

It's Party Time! The Edmonton Party Line is a safe and easy way to meet new and interesting people. Ladies are free! Guys from 5 cents per minute. Ads, jokes, stories and more! Try it now! Dial 44-Party

Sing e? Try speed dating with Egentmutedate on 13 March. Age groups 20-30, 32-42, and 43-53. Register at 457-8535 or [www.egentmutedate.ca](http://www.egentmutedate.ca)

## AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

The young man ducked under the frayed red strips of fabric that hung from the thresno and separated the backroom of the small, dank snop.

It took a moment for his eyes to adjust to the dim light supplied by the single sickly yellow bulb that hung in the middle of the room. He coughed as he waited for the owner of the store to follow him in. The air tasted of tobacco and stale sweat.

"Sure y, my friend, one of my fine wares will be of interest to you. I have only the finest quality stock," the snopowner said in a thick, rough voice.

The small man with the snake eyes raised his hand to motion to the snakes nudged against the wall of the room. Each was partially hidden by a thin threadbare blanket and settled on a small grimy pillow.

The young man cast a nervous gaze over the figures. He dare not let the snake-eye snopkeeper from seeing his inexperience. The young man pointed to one of the smaller snakes that tried to hide away in the corner. "I'll take that one."

"No," said the snopkeeper. "Not that one. It took great expense to find and take possession of this one, and the price is high."

But the young man would not be moved from his choice. He dug his hands into his pocket and pulled out a handful of sweaty, crumpled coins. "I'll pay extra. But I want that one."

Moments later, the young man stepped from the snop, holding his precious new purchase in his arms. "Dude, Sam and Yusuf are going to love this," said Chris Cunningham excitedly as he pulled the blanket away from his newly bought nookan.

"I earned my undergraduate degree,  
now I want to  
break some  
boundaries"

## Meet Sanjay.

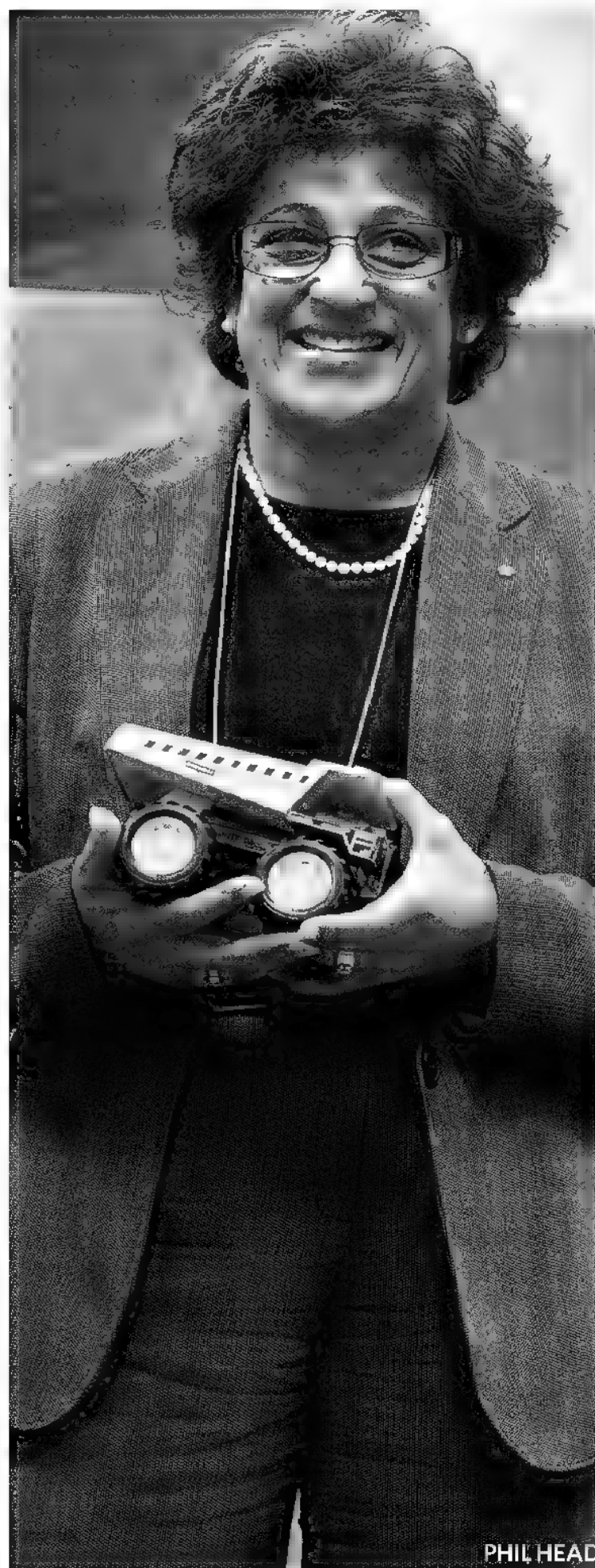
To get the practical knowledge and real world experience to help him go global, Sanjay earned his Postgraduate Certificate from Humber in International Marketing in only 2 semesters. He now works as Director of Marketing for a major Multinational Food Services Management company. We think he's going places.

International Marketing, Postgraduate Certificate



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PHIL HEAD

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## Working this summer?

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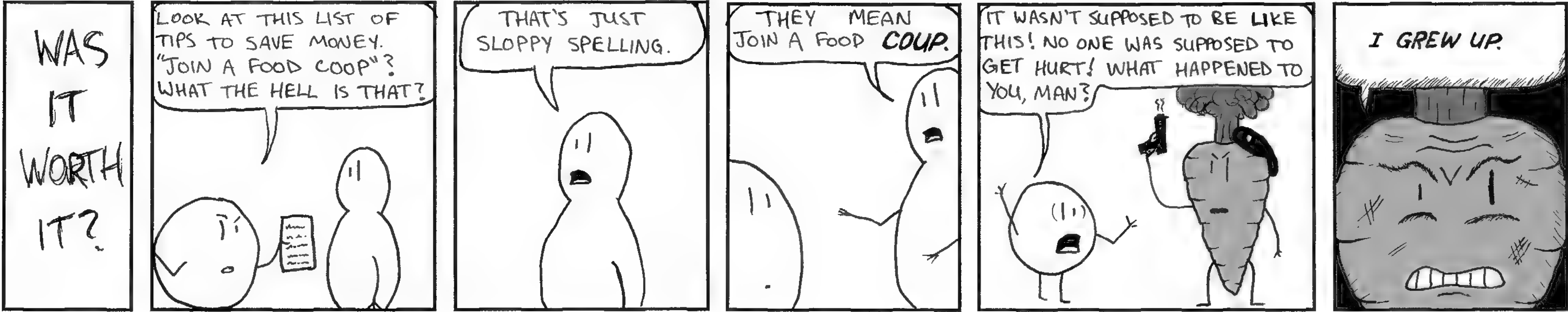
- ✓ Overtime is paid if your shift is longer than 8 hours
- ✓ A workday cannot be more than 12 hours, including breaks
- ✓ A break is required if your shift is longer than 5 hours
- ✓ The minimum wage is \$7.00 per hour
- ✓ Workers are guaranteed 3 hours of minimum wage for short shifts

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, go to  
[www.employment.gov.ab.ca/employmentstandards](http://www.employment.gov.ab.ca/employmentstandards)  
or call toll-free 310-0000 and ask for employment standards (to call direct dial (780) 427-3731).

Alberta



PEANUT & CIRCLE by Chris Krause



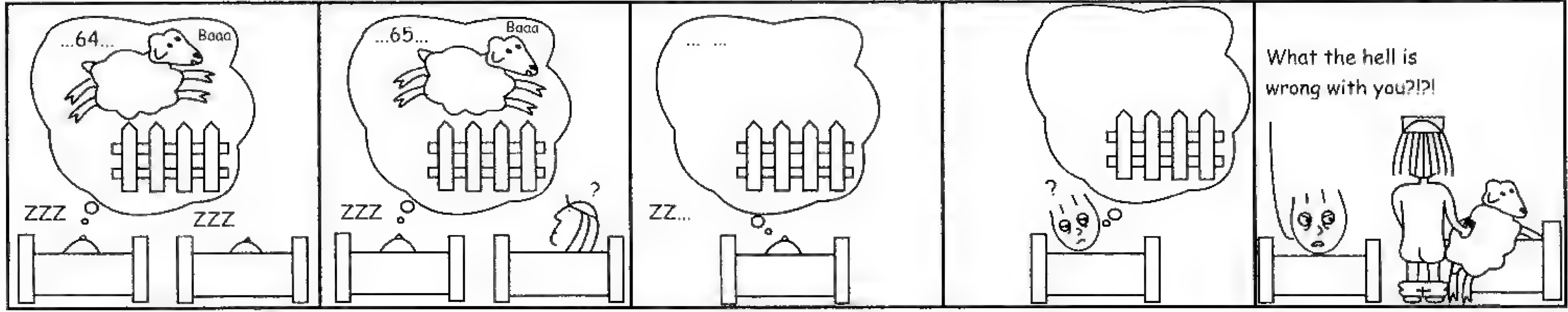
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got a comic you'd like to submit?  
email [opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca)



# Students' Union

## Employment Opportunities - Associate Director Positions



**Application Deadline:** 5:00pm, Friday, March 30, 2007.  
Please submit completed application forms to 2-900 SUB.

**Application Forms:** Application forms are available at 2-900 SUB, all Students' Union Information Booths, and online at [www.su.ualberta.ca](http://www.su.ualberta.ca).

**Detailed job descriptions are available at 2-900 SUB**

### Important Instructions:

- Please submit only single sided documents
- Please be available for the noted interview times
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid the Students' Union Fees
- Please note: We thank all applicants, however, ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.

### InfoLink: Academic and Information Services

#### Operations Coordinator (2 Positions)

#### Resources Coordinator (1 Position)

**Term:** May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** May 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007 (35 hours/week)  
September 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008 (25 hours/week)  
**Remuneration:** May 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007 (\$1302/month)  
September 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008 (\$1066/month)

**Operations Coordinator Description:** The Operations Coordinators at Information Services/ Academic Guidance Centre are responsible to the Manager and will perform the following duties including, but not limited to: handling and reconciling all cash, debit and credit card transactions from the main office and four satellite information desks; distribution of tickets for campus events as well as ETS bus passes and bus tickets.

**Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 starting at 4:30pm**

**Resources Coordinator Description:** The resource coordinator is responsible for managing and updating all registries and online listings including the housing registry, tutor listings, used books, volunteer opportunities, exam registry, and ride sharing opportunities. The resource coordinator is highly involved in service specific projects relating to Academics, Volunteer Fair and Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board session.

**Interviews Scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 starting at 4:30pm**

### Safewalk – Associate Director

**Term:** August 15, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** 20 hours/week  
**Remuneration:** \$335 - August  
\$670 - September to April

**Description:** The AD is responsible for the technical component of the service, upkeep and maintenance of equipment, providing supplemental training for dispatch volunteers and other duties as outlined in the employment contract and as may be specified by time to time by the Director of Safewalk.

**Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, starting at 4:00pm.**

### Centre For Student Development – Administrative Coordinator

**Term:** May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** May 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007 (35 hours/wk)  
September 1 – April 30, 2008 (25 hours/week)  
**Remuneration:** May 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007 (\$1302/month)  
September 1, 2007 - April 30, 2008 (\$1066/month)

**Description:** The main duty of the AC is liaising with the public for Orientation 2007 and Campus Ambassadors, as well as coordinating registrations and campus tours, booking rooms, and providing support for all CSD programs. Expertise in the following areas would be considered assets: database experience, working with the public, some office administrative experience and an understanding of the programs offered through the CSD.

**Interview schedule to be announced.**

### Associate Director – ECOS

**Term:** May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** 10 hours/week  
**Remuneration:** \$342/month

**Description:** The ECOS Associate Director will perform the following duties including but not limited to; the managing and coordination of ECOS volunteers, providing assistance in the research, development, and facilitation of the ECOS projects. In addition, the ECOS Associate Director will work on specific projects at the direction of the ECOS Director.

**Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 12, starting at 7:00pm.**

### Campus Campaigns Coordinator (Advocacy Department)

**Term:** July 1, 2007 - Feb 28, 2008  
**Hours:** 20 hours/week  
**Remuneration:** \$1,000/mo (under review)

This is an event planning, recruiting and outreach position housed within the SU's advocacy department. Operating under the supervision of the Advocacy Director, the CCC spearheads the campus presence for various campaigns initiated by the executive committee.

**Interview schedule to be announced.**

### Campus Ambassador Coordinator

**Term:** May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** May 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007 (35 hours/week)  
September 1 – April 30, 2008 (25 hours/week)  
**Remuneration:** May 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007 (\$1302/month)  
September 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008 (\$1066/month)

**Description:** The CAC is responsible for coordinating and marketing the Campus Ambassador Program including all campus tours and First Year Initiative student for a day program.

Responsibilities also include recruitment and training of all volunteer tour guides and First Year Initiative mentors. On a daily basis the CAC is responsible for booking tours with interested parties, and ensuring that tours booked through their office as well as the Registrar and Student Awards are assigned a Campus Ambassador tour guide.

**Interview schedule to be announced.**

### Associate Director – Student Group Services

**Term:** August 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** August 1 – 31, 2007 & April 1 – 30, 2008 (10 hours/week)  
September 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (20 hours/week)  
**Remuneration:** August 1 – 31, 2007 & April 1 – 30, 2008 (\$343/month)  
September 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 (\$687/month)

**Description:** The Student Group Services Associate Director is responsible to the Student Group Services Director and assists in promoting cooperation and coordination among Student Groups. This individual will also aid in the daily administrative operations of the Student Group Services office including, but not limited to the regular updating of the Student Group Services Database, updating the service website, and assisting with the registration and granting processes.

**Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 12, starting at 4:30pm.**

### Student Distress Centre – Team Leader (2 Positions available)

**Term:** August 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** 10 hours/week  
**Remuneration:** \$342/month

**Description:** The SDC Team Leaders are responsible to the SDC Director and works closely with the Director in overseeing the organization and operations of SDC. While sharing many similar duties such as interviewing, training and appreciating volunteers, there are individual responsibilities allocated to each Team Leader. One Team leader is responsible for volunteer scheduling and resource library management, and the other is responsible for updating call/drop-in statistics and organizing education and awareness booths. In your cover letter for these positions please indicate which position you are most interested in.

**Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, starting at 7:00pm.**

### University Policy and Information Officer (Advocacy Department)

**Term:** May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** 25 hours/week (may be FT for summer pending grants)  
**Remuneration:** \$1,181.83/mo (under review)

This is a research, analysis, record keeping and strategy position within the SU's advocacy department, which together with the other members of the department supports the university relations, media relations and campus communications initiatives of the executive committee. The UPIO reports to the Advocacy Director.

**Interviews scheduled for Thursday April 5 starting at 1:00pm**

### External Policy and Information Officer (Advocacy Department)

**Term:** May 1, 2007 - April 30, 2008  
**Hours:** 25 hours/week (may be FT for summer pending grants)  
**Remuneration:** \$1,181.83/mo (under review)

This is a research, record keeping and strategy position within the SU's advocacy department, which together with the other members of the department supports the government relations, media relations and campus communications initiatives of the executive committee. The EPIO reports to the Advocacy Director.

**Interviews scheduled for Wednesday April 4 starting at 2:00pm**

**ALL SALARIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW**



## THE GATEWAY

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# Accessibility a core problem: Cournoyer

VP says bust or no bust, PSE needs to be a priority

BUST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Governments have often divided the education departments into the K-12, and then the postsecondary [sphere], so there's not often a lot of bridging between the two," Berger said. "The transition from secondary schools to postsecondary in our view should be as seamless as it is from elementary to secondary. And that would really require a substantial change from the thinking of the way we're running the sector, because it means that high-school teachers and high-school students and high-school parents have to start thinking about where are the kids going to go, what comes after high school?"

University of Alberta Provost Dr Carl Amrhein declined to comment because he has yet to read the foundation's report. However, Berger urges all Canadian postsecondary institutions to take an invested interest into the future of enrolment, and help provide and increase education accessibility to all demographics.

"I understand that universities and colleges may look at their full institutions now and say we don't have anything to worry about. But if they look

15 or 20 years down the line, look at the needs of the country, then it's clear that there's a need for action," Berger said.

However, U of A Students' Union Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer stressed that regardless of a potential population shift, accessibility to postsecondary education needs to be addressed in Alberta.

"A lot of what they're talking about [in the report]—targeting more students from lower income and under-represented groups such as aboriginal students, and, especially here in Alberta, rural students—is endemic of a larger postsecondary issue. We should be doing this anyway," he said.

Cournoyer also noted that increasing accessibility can only be tackled by improving the affordability of a postsecondary education.

"Price sends a strong message for a lot of students," Cournoyer said, explaining that this is especially true for students from lower income backgrounds.

"The sticker shock can be a huge deterrent for a lot of students."

with files from Natalie Climenhaga



PHIL HEAD

**BABY GOT BACKHOE** U of A President Indira Samarasekera gets hands on.

## NEWS BRIEF

### GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY HELD AT FUTURE U OF A SCIENCE CENTRE

University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera handled heavy equipment during the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (CCIS), set for completion in 2010.

"The purpose [of CCIS] is to provide high quality learning and research for graduate and undergraduate students," Samarasekera said, adding that the need for more student access in the Faculty of Science propelled building the centre.

"We have been experiencing rapid

increases in demand for access to advanced education in science, and [CCIS] is our response," said Greg Taylor, Faculty of Science Dean.

He said that the centre would provide space for an additional 1200 undergraduate students and 500 graduate students each year, and will facilitate interdisciplinary research activities and studies between the science faculty and students.

"People will literally be able to see science occurring all around them. This is where we think the key discoveries of the future will be found. Make no mistake, these discoveries will change our lives," Taylor said.

Olesia Plokhii, News Staff

## STREETERS

Students' Union VP (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham recently bought three hookahs to have available for student use in the Powerplant. The idea was rejected by the other Executive members.

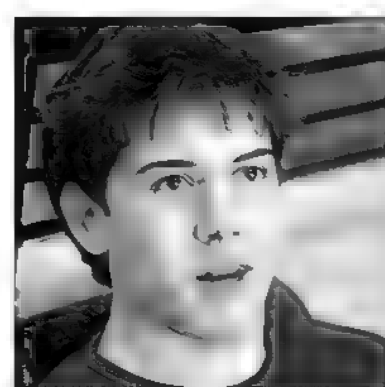
Do you think the 'Plant should have hookahs?



**Doug Rawlik**  
Physical Education I



**Caleigh Leighton**  
Arts I



**Patrick Seal**  
Science I



**Kristen McNally**  
Education I

It could be a good idea. I wouldn't use it. I have a friend who's a sprinter and he might use it.

If it keeps the 'Plant open and people can relax, that's cool with me. I don't want it to close.

I didn't realize there was a great demand for hookahs on campus. I haven't seen any around. It's definitely aimed at a specific group.

If it makes people come to the 'Plant, then I think it's a good idea. It's a good venue, and I don't want to lose it. I might try it.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki

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# U of A prof says religion must be taught in public schools

SARAH TREIT  
News Writer

The place for religious education in the public school system was the subject of hot debate at last Saturday's Philosopher's Café, held at the Stanley Milner Library. The keynote speaker, Dr David Smith of the University of Alberta's Department of Secondary Education, argued that not only is religious study healthy in the public system, it's a necessity.

Smith hopes that education would "demystify" religion, and foster understanding and tolerance in public schools already rich with religious diversity. In his opening remarks he asserted that religious education is "impossible to avoid" because it's already taking place in the classroom in the form of peer interaction.

"[The push for religious education is] not a question of trying to insert something, it's a question of trying to work with something that's already there," he said.

Smith contended that although the separation of church and state in Western society has been a political imperative, it has led to a privatization of religion that serves to "parochialize children's religious imaginations."

He stressed the need for a public space for young people to participate in an informed and open debate about their religious ideas.

"The more we share, the more we are in a position to break down the barriers ... that stand in the way of our civility. Ignorance creates fear, fear creates paranoia, and paranoia creates violence against that which we fear," he said.

Moreover, Smith proposed that religious education helps children to learn about spirituality in a context separate from their own family or tradition, allowing them to critically examine their beliefs instead of "falling into the safety and security



TARASTIEGLITZ

**ROLE OF RELIGION** U of A prof David Smith wants religious studies in schools.

of the tradition that is received."

"You cannot come to maturity simply on the basis of your own ideas: you come to maturity on the basis of your interactions with others," he added.

He then opened the floor for a lively discussion, which included many arguing that religious education in public schools might be presented in a proselytizing manner. One audience member, who proclaimed himself a "recovering Catholic," argued that religious education can't be separated from religious indoctrination.

However, Smith outlined the distinction between educating and indoctrinating.

"It should never be about indoctrination," he responded, adding that teachers should be trained to "orchestrate the discussion in a way that's fair."

He reminded the audience that religious education is topic already present in today's public education system—whether recognized in the formal curriculum or not.

"Before we throw [the debate] all away, let's see what we can do to make it more creative," he urged.

ten per cent, would go a long way in making up the deficit. Council passed the amendment by a unanimous vote.

## RUN IN THE RED?

The next motion would allow the Students' Union to run a deficit of \$25 000 for the next year. Current rules restrict the SU from having their expenses outweigh their income. Councillor Cam Lewis explained that the organization's revenues were expected to increase in the 2008/09 year, although he said that exactly where the money would come from was confidential. However, other councillors argued that the SU shouldn't get in the practice of allowing deficits. In the end, the motion was defeated.

## LET'S PAY THE CRO

The next amendment proposed a 25 per cent increase to the salary of the SU's Chief Returning Officer. Supporters of the bill said that the current payment of \$4000 wasn't enough for the number of hours that the CRO puts in while managing the annual elections and other related duties. Others felt the number that was chosen was somewhat arbitrary and expressed concern that the number could be either too high or too low. They said that more information was needed about what other student governments pay their CROs before setting an exact amount. A change was made to the amendment, assuring that the CRO would receive a pay increase in the next year, but with the exact per-

centage to be determined later. It then passed with no opposition.

## STUDENT FEES GO UP

Council then moved on to the most heated debate of the night: whether to allow the BFC to increase student fees for the next year. See story on cover for more details.

## OTHER MOTIONS

The final three motions of the evening were dealt with quickly. A motion to deal with the predicted deficit by cutting costs from SU-businesses was defeated. Those who voted against the idea argued that there were already concerns that services weren't providing for students, and that cost-cutting under those circumstances was counterintuitive. Another motion calling for more training for Council committees was also defeated.

Finally, a call for the creation for a new part-time position, dedicated to convincing more local businesses to provide scholarships for students, was proposed by Councillor and president-elect Michael Janz. Those opposing the push pointed out that there was a position in the SU's marketing department with a similar purpose, and that small changes could make it a bigger part of the job. The motion was defeated.

A final vote approved the amended budget as a whole. With the matter approved, Council adjourned for the evening.

## COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27 March.

## PIZZA PIZZA

Council held an emergency meeting Tuesday to approve the budget principles for the 2007/08 year. Accordingly, the first motion of the night was a vote on whether Council should order pizza for dinner. Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf argued that the meeting wasn't on the regular schedule, and as such there was no budget for dinner. As well, he argued that it was improper to order anything, seeing as the meeting was called to decide how to deal with next year's financial crunch. However, Council approved the motion 12-9, and dinner was ordered.

## PRICE INCREASES

The first budget-related motion to hit the table was a proposal to allow the Budget and Finance Committee to raise the price of non-academic goods and services in SU-run business. VP (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham argued that the amendment, which would allow the BFC to increase prices by no more than

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5- Kappa Sigma

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2- Shyam & Phys Ed Fridays

1- UACS "geeks"



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MIKE OTTO

**SEARCHING FOR BRIGHT IDEAS** The provincial government has said it will release new legislation on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Emission regulation debated

LACINA DESJARLAIS  
News Staff

With Albertans calling for increased governmental focus on environmental issues and the provincial Conservatives set to announce new legislation concerning carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions this week, the question of slowing production in the oil sands has arisen. However, according to some experts, this may not be the best way to solve the emissions problem.

According to Andrew Leach, professor of environmental economics and researcher at the University of Alberta, the oil sands have become the "whipping-boy" for emissions reductions.

"Oil sands emissions are about three per cent of Canada's emissions. [For Canadians] to say that what we should do is just stop all oil sands development, and let that be the way we reduce emissions, is probably a pretty naïve and very costly policy," said Leach. "Fossil fuels make up about 20 per cent of Canada's emissions, oil sands is one little chunk of that, so it's probably getting a disproportionate amount of attention."

Leach suggests that the oil sands are not the culprit to blame for increased

CO<sub>2</sub> levels and points to research by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) that suggests the oil sands as account for only a small proportion of Canada's overall fossil fuels emissions.

Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner takes a similar standpoint, admitting that Alberta's economy is largely driven by the production of oil and gas, and that the government has no plans in the immediate future to put the brakes on oil sands growth.

"[The Conservative Party] believes that the decision to either speed up or slow down the growth of the oil sands is one that needs to be decided upon by industry. Alberta has an economy that is driven and largely based on the production of oil and gas, and as such it is probably not likely that we're going to reduce the production of carbon dioxide there," Renner said.

While both Leach and Renner agree that the oil sands shouldn't be the ultimate target for emissions reductions, they have different views as to what should be done to cut back on greenhouse gases.

Renner has asserted that through new legislations, the government will be hard-lining heavy industry throughout the province into better

managing their emissions. According to Renner, this wouldn't mean pressuring industrial sectors to scale back production, which could signify a hit to the Albertan economy, but would see industries being encouraged to buy into new technologies that would remove or reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

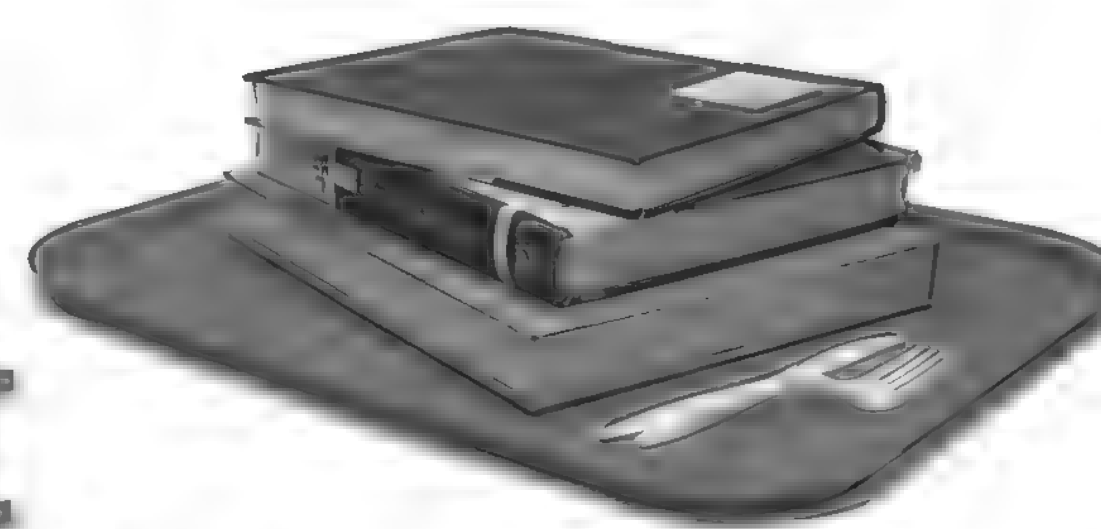
"What we plan to do is manage the CO<sub>2</sub> through various technologies like carbon capture and sequestration [isolating CO<sub>2</sub> from the air]," Renner said.

While Renner says that the Conservative government is looking into technologies like this as a solution to carbon emissions reductions, Leach argues that there are more simple and timely solutions for greenhouse gas cutbacks; place the responsibility on consumers.

"We don't want more expensive energy, we want cheaper energy and fewer emissions—well, it's maybe not going to happen," Leach said. "Canadians have to start walking the walk; if you think climate change is an issue then say you're willing to pay a \$1.20 per litre for gas."

"As long as we keep saying, 'Tax the industry; don't let industry pass price changes on to consumers; we can't afford to pay for it,' we don't have a hope," he added.

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# VPOF defends hookah idea

HOOKAH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cunningham noted that very few places in the city offer hookah pipes, and explained he did some research and found a non-tobacco herbal mixture that would circumvent all the City and SU bylaws.

"It's just a very social act, it's on par with having a cup of coffee or a pint of beer with your friends," Cunningham said. "I thought that would kind of create a niche market because, let's face it, coffee shops are a dime a dozen on campus. We need to identify that space as being a little bit different."

Cunningham explained that Powerplant patrons would've been able to sign out a hookah in exchange for their ID and pay by the bowl based on gram weight.

Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) Chair Theresa Chapman said that while Cunningham had mentioned the idea of hookahs to BFC, she only found out that they were actually bought by hearsay and was able to confirm the rumour by reading Exec Committee minutes.

"My first reaction was [that] he's completely out to lunch and I can't believe he just did this on his own.

But my second reaction was wow, it's so crazy, it just might work," Chapman said.

**"I still think it's a great idea, there's no question some people have a problem with it but overall I think it'll be a new product that a lot of students would enjoy."**

**CHRIS CUNNINGHAM,  
SU VP (OPERATIONS & FINANCE)**

Chapman, who saw the purchase of hookahs as "one of the most entertaining things that's happened this year," noted that, even though the Exec Committee didn't agree with Cunningham, the idea was refreshingly out of the box.

"Everybody mentions doing crazy things, like putting strippers in the Powerplant but no one actually goes out and says 'Well, who cares

what anyone thinks I'm going to do it'—not that hookahs are like strippers—but it's just one of those really different ideas.

"I think that's one of the benefits of having someone who's not established in the Students' Union taking an Exec position, because they're not so concerned with the process. And they tend to think of something a little bit different," Chapman added. Cunningham hadn't sat on Council prior to being elected last year.

While plans on how to make the Powerplant profitable are still up in the air, Cunningham is hopeful his idea won't go unnoticed.

"Who knows, if this generates conversation maybe it'll go to Council or the Executive [and] maybe next year's Executive will go through with it," Cunningham said. "I still think it's a great idea, there's no question some people have a problem with it but overall I think it'll be a new product that a lot of students would enjoy."

To read the Executive Committee minutes where the idea of using hookahs in the Powerplant is discussed and later rejected please see: [www.thegatewayonline.ca](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca).

## Right vote for wrong reasons: Power

Students' Union needs extra funds to continue current services, but Council shouldn't be concentrating on just trying to avoid a deficit, says SU President

BUDGET • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Even though he saw it as an unavoidable measure, Dollansky voted in opposition to the amendment. He argued that Council should've set a specific cap on the amount that fees could increase. He presented a motion to Council that would allow the BFC to raise costs to a maximum of four per cent above CPI, but the amendment was defeated.

"I voted against the principle because of the fact that we didn't put a cap on it," he said. "I think that it was irresponsible—we need to provide direction to BFC to make sure we don't increase fees any higher than we have to."

However, while Tieman agreed with Dollansky that there should be restrictions on how high the fees can rise, he said there was already a bylaw that limits any increases to 15 per cent. Any changes to that restrictions, he argued, could cause problems down the road.

"It would be setting a precedent where Council could be changing that cap at their will, whenever they found it appropriate," Tieman said. "I hope

that the BFC has enough brains in their committee to not raise fees more than four per cent over [CPI]."

**"I voted against the principle because of the fact that we didn't put a cap on it."**

**STEPHEN DOLLANSKY,  
SU COUNCILLOR**

After the amendment was passed, SU President Samantha Power proposed a rare request to reconsider the question. The reasoning behind the motion, she said, was that Council shouldn't be approving a fee increase just to address a deficit.

"If Council feels that [the SU] needs more money to provide students with proper services, then we should increase fees. But I don't think we should be increasing student fees just so that we don't run a deficit," Power

said. "[The motion was] to tell them that they were making the right choice for the wrong reasons."

The motion to reconsider the question was voted on and ultimately rejected by councillors, and the original vote stood.

After considering other amendments, Council eventually approved the budget principles. The BFC will develop a more detailed proposal based on the approved principles and present it to Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham by today. While the principles are only intended to outline the basic direction of the budget, some councillors, like Justin Kehoe, felt that Council should have done more to provide specifics to the committee.

"[The fee increase] is a political decision to make, and BFC makes the numbers decisions. Council was trying to solve the problem while not making an actual decision," Kehoe said.

Students currently pay \$29.62 per term for SU membership fees.



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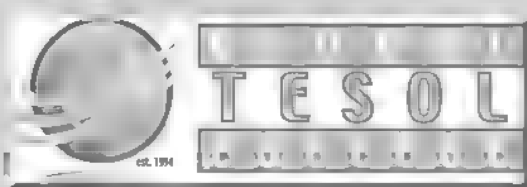
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# U of A English professor wins Governor General's Award

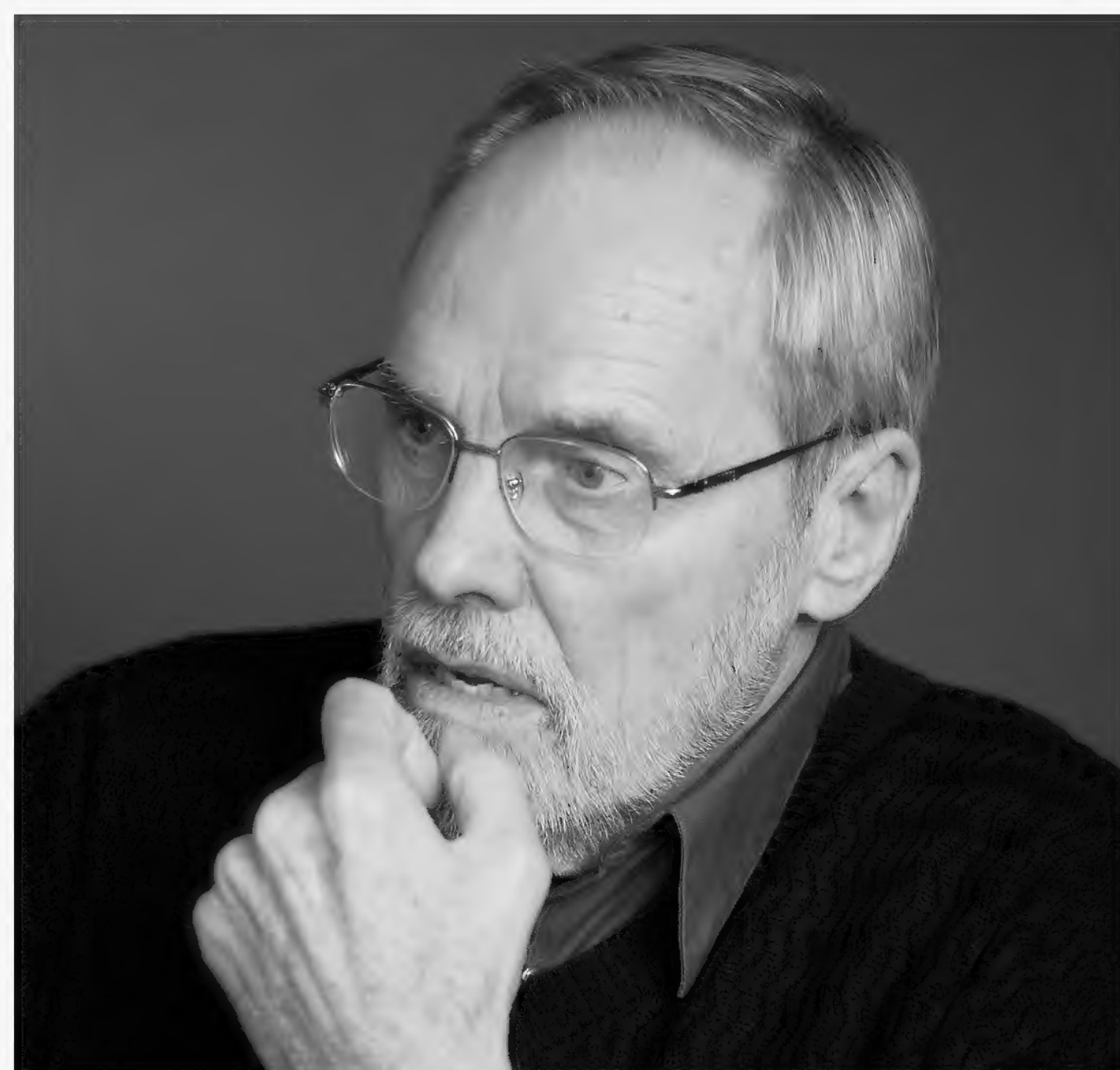
AMANDA ASH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On 26 February, an Edmonton writer and University of Alberta professor emeritus was awarded one of Canada's most prestigious non-fiction awards for his work *Of This Earth*. Although many recipients of such a prize would immediately delve into how thrilled they are to be recognized, 72-year-old Rudy Wiebe couldn't wait to elaborate on how glad he was he'd gotten a haircut before the ceremony, and how everyone got a chuckle out of his magical shoes—the same shoes he wore to accept his Governor General's Award in 1974 for *The Temptations of Big Bear*.

"Did you hear all the stories about the shoes? Every newspaper ran a story about those shoes," Wiebe says over the phone. "They looked at them and said they were very classy shoes. Actually, they are. I think they'll come back into style again."

Wiebe had picked up the other Charles Taylor finalists' books beforehand—*Citizen of the World* by John English and *The Judgement of Paris* by Ross King—and after reading them, Wiebe said that his "story of a little bush kid" didn't stand a chance.

*Of This Earth* documents the first twelve years of Wiebe's life. Wiebe describes his book as a silly, simple idea that challenged his memories of being born and raised on a northern Saskatchewan homestead farm. But



ANDREW RURAK

**A MAN OF HIS WORDS** Rudy Wiebe's writing grabs country's top award.

judging from what the adjudicators had to say, that little bush kid's tale wasn't an ordinary one.

"[The judges] made a couple of comments later and one of them was that it took them into a different world that most people don't [know] anything more about. But [that world] existed for many Canadians for a long time—you know, that pioneering world of clearing land and making the hunting world into an agricultural world," Wiebe says.

Professor Garrett Epp, Chair for the Department of English and Film

Studies, couldn't have been happier about Wiebe's win. Epp says that the Department has been doing extremely well in the area of creative non-fiction, earning the Governor General and other award nominations regularly for the past few years.

"[Creative non-fiction] is a field that's attracting an awful lot of students and bringing a lot of recognition to our program," Epp says. "Creative non-fiction, in particular, is a field that's growing in importance."

# Re-examining two of the three Rs

Canadian education ministers say adult illiteracy rates need to be addressed

RACHEL HENDRICKS  
News Writer

Canadians need to brush up on their reading and writing skills, if the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) has anything to say anything about it. And in pursuit of this aim, CMEC is now re-examining and revamping their Literacy Action Plan.

In 2003, Canada conducted the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLSS), which positively correlated literacy with employment and community engagement. The survey also found that the literacy performances of Aboriginal and immigrant populations were lower than the average Canadian's.

The Literacy Action Plan was formed in 2005 to address literacy performances across all demographics. And on 13 February, CMEC made it a primary focus when the council met in Toronto. Ministers will now be gathering more research, developing their own policy frameworks on literacy, and creating networks that they hope will improve collaboration between jurisdictions.

"Every one of the provinces and territories are focused on literacy. We know that in order to be successful in terms of the economy, in order to be [a] successful democracy, we must have people that are literate," said Dr Emery Dosdall, Deputy Minister of Education for British Columbia.

A main focus of the Literacy Action Plan is to prepare adults for the

workforce. Dosdall said that immigrants are a particular concern, and officials need to question whether enough is being done to help them acclimatize and become literate in English.

"There are a lot of people in the workforce today as adults [that are] not necessarily illiterate, but people in jobs that can't read manuals," Dosdall added.

However, Harvey Krahn, professor and chair of sociology at the University of Alberta, specializes in social inequality, education and immigration, and while he agrees that illiteracy is a problem, he's concerned that the whole story isn't being told.

**"There are a lot of people in the workforce today as adults [that are] not necessarily illiterate, but people in jobs that can't read manuals."**

**DR EMERY DOSDALL,  
BC DEPUTY MINISTER  
OF EDUCATION**

"If you came to Canada as an immigrant 20 years ago as an adult, on average it took ... ten years to catch up and be earning as much as a Canadian-born person who has the same education. The research today

shows that immigrants who arrived recently aren't catching up as fast," Krahn said.

Krahn then pointed to Canada's immigration point system, which now favours those highly educated and proficient in English and French. To qualify for entry into the country, one must earn 67 points. The maximum amount of points is 100; 49 of those may be earned in the education and language categories alone.

"The paradox is this: in a way we're putting more emphasis on [language] skills today when we pick our immigrants, and yet immigrants today are having more trouble catching up. So it doesn't seem that, on average, literacy or English skills may be the main problem," Krahn argued.

Krahn suggested that more significant hurdles for immigrants are a lack of connections in their fields and getting Canadians to recognize their credentials.

"We don't want to ignore the literacy thing, but in some ways it's too easy to simply say [integration issues are] literacy problem[s]," Krahn said.

Krahn said, however, that for refugees, not chosen on the point-system, literacy is likely a very significant problem.

But whether illiteracy is the crux of employment woes or just one of many variables, there are two committees currently working on the Literacy Action Plan and communication networks should be springing up by the council's next meeting in September.



## Non-confidence has got my vote

I CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN how our country plans its finances.

Stephen Harper's Conservative minority government will present the federal budget on 19 March, and that means that Canadian newspapers and television will soon be buzzing with talk of an election. Hidden below their desks, news anchors are positively erect at the thought of the budget failing and the government dissolving.

But first, let's take a step back for all of us that slept through social studies class in Grade Ten: the federal budget, along with tax measures and votes on the Speech from the Throne, are confidence votes. That is, if the measure fails to pass, Parliament is saying that it doesn't have the confidence that the ruling party can lead the country.

When this happens, the Prime Minister can do one of two things: either resign, or yank the Governor General away from making up new awards (or doing photo ops in Afghanistan or whatever the hell it is Michaëlle Jean does with her time) and get them to call an election.

The basic theory is that, if you can't get the budget passed, you can't run the country. If they can't balance the chequebook, how are they going to pay for all those votes in the next election? The idea makes sense on paper. But like a lot of ideas that look good on paper, such as paying people in suits that you've never met to tell other people in suits that you've never met what matters to you, the confidence budget rule doesn't make sense in the real world.

First of all, we already have a vote to show that we have no confidence in a minority government: the creatively entitled "vote of non-confidence." It does the same thing as a failed budget vote—it dissolves Parliament and forces an election. That's how Paul Martin's government was given the boot.

So who benefits by making the federal budget a confidence vote? Not the party currently in power. Harper doesn't have the finesse—or the pure contempt for the process—that Trudeau had when he deliberately forced a non-confidence vote to turn his minority government into a majority in 1974. Instead, the Conservatives have to give in to the demands of the less powerful parties in an effort to appease them, because if they don't, there will be an election. However, this doesn't mean that the non-confidence vote is necessarily a great thing for the opposition parties. Take the NDP, for instance, which has recently seen declining poll numbers: if an election were to be called next week, the party could lose some significant seats, forcing it to swallow a lacklustre budget in an effort to stave off a contest and keep a hold on its power.

Seeing as we already have the option to hold an actual vote of no confidence, all the budget confidence does is stifle any hopes of compromise or actual discussion on how to spend the nation's money. The government in power has to make sure that the proposal they present is accepted the first time, while the opposition parties are scared away from contesting budget items if the political landscape isn't favourable. What we get as Canadians is a watered-down budget instead of something that could truly reflect the needs of the nation.

As it stands, Parliament doesn't get the chance to differentiate between, "We need a new budget," and, "We need a new government." Instead, we need a whole new system.

SCOTT LILWALL  
Deputy News Editor

## A party of one

AFTER PROTESTING THE COMMENCEMENT SPEECH from John McCain last year, students at Columbia are once again unhappy with the choice of their graduation speaker. In an attempt to be less controversial, Columbia selected Matthew Fox of *Lost* fame—a 1989 grad of the school who also played on the football team. Now the ungrateful grads are upset that instead of getting a speaker of note, they're getting a piece of Hollywood beefcake. They shouldn't really complain, though: at least it's not that fucking Hurley guy.

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor



## LETTERS

### Soundwave sour grapes over election results

To the human who drew the political cartoon in the 12 March issue of the *Gateway*: Amanda Henry is no human, she is a robot! Your journalistic integrity is substantially sub par. You fail to notice her superior qualities that separate her from the rest of you fleshbags.

I hate you Dollankys.

SOUNDWAVE  
Science IV

### Edmonton no Vancouver

(Re: "U-Pass in service with Yes vote," 13 March). As a graduating student this year I did not feel the necessity to participate in last week's referendums. However, I believe that the recent U-Pass is rather unfortunate. Apart for the typical "tyranny of the majority" versus "let's live in a communist utopia" sort of discussion, there was some logistical problems that were not debated.

The Yes side continually upheld the virtues of the U-Pass tax on the basis that it will increase ridership and that it is a good deal for a majority of the students. The problem with this is that the Yes side [was] using asymmetrical comparisons. Simply looking at the stats provided in Tuesday's article, one can see how the U of A U-Pass ranks among other major universities. Only SFU and

UBC—two Vancouver universities—are higher, and for good reason. A U-Pass in Vancouver, as Vancouverites know, is exponentially more valuable than a U-Pass in Edmonton, yet U of A students are told that increased ridership is a main factor based on such numbers.

Edmonton, however, is not Vancouver. The UBC bus pass is highly valued and used essentially because of the city in which UBC is located, as well as the efficiency of the transit system. Edmonton's transit system, frankly, sucks. The only use most students will receive from their U-Pass is a ride to school and maybe to an Oilers or Eskimos game. Of course ridership will increase, but probably more comparable to the U-Passes of Calgary and Victoria (28-30 per cent), yet at a much higher cost (\$56 and \$62 compared to \$75).

Students will find themselves paying yet another unnecessary and unfair student fee next year—I feel for the minority that are being forced to live with the mistakes of the majority.

BRAD RICHERT  
Philosophy/Religious Studies IV

*Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.*

*The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### 'Fancy Skating Club' a welcome addition to women's varsity sports

I was indeed glad to read in your last issue of prospective plans for the formation of a University Fancy Skating Club next year.

The thought has occurred to me that the tremendous effort and energy now being expended with indifferent success in one of our major sports might be turned to better advantage if directed in a different channel.

Undoubtedly you see what I mean, you know—Girls' Hockey, which sport along with the Men's Hockey, each year receives a rather substantial sum from the Students' Union.

I should be very foolish to state that our sex is more capable of equalling the achievements of mere [men] in every line of endeavour; but I must confess that our good points, both mental and physical, show up to better advantage in such sports as tennis, basketball, swimming and fancy skating.

Along with our major sport of hockey we should have rugby, boxing and wrestling, for I know that a few of my sister Pembinites after years of practice in such noble and exhilarating sports as parlour

rugby until 10:30 each evening would thus be given an adequate opportunity to exhibit their prowess to the general public.

But seriously, as our French professor says, "Revenons a nos moutons." Don't you think it would be very much nicer to see our hockey girls gyrating gracefully through the intricacies of fancy skating than to see them dressed masculinely and falling in such absurd fashions in a hockey game?

An Inter-Varsity Fancy Skating Competition could easily be arranged and our girls given an opportunity of visiting Saskatoon and Winnipeg, particularly the latter city, where so much interest is taken in fancy skating.

I hope, dear Mr Editor, that I'm not taking up too much valuable space, but like many other girls who skate a little I feel that such a change would be of more benefit to the girls generally.

Yours truly,

"JEAN"  
8 March, 1928

*Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.*

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Mo Elsalhy, MLA and Kevin Taft, MLA, Leader of the Alberta Liberal Caucus

# US blunders threaten Afghan mission



GRAHAM LETTNER

On the concrete island in the middle of the campus bus loop, taped to a lamppost where students wait for their rides home, is an outdated poster that reads “Afghanistan: Canada’s Iraq.” It advertises an event that was hosted by the Muslim Students’ Association back in February, but it’s a bold statement—and it may yet prove prescient.

Afghanistan could indeed become Canada’s Iraq—but not with our nation playing the role of America, though. Instead, in Afghanistan, Canada risks becoming the Britain of Iraq: first a willing partner, then a rueful accomplice, and finally, a tarnished and dejected former occupier.

Britain recently began the process of extricating their forces from southern Iraq—a response to seeing the American military blunder along for far too long. It’s appetite for war lost, with British public opinion finally having gnawed through whatever cords of comradeship had bound Bush and Blair.

In Afghanistan, it’s further US blunders—three in particular—that imperil the mission there, and which risk leaving Canada in the same unfortunate position as its colonial counterparts.

The first of these took place on Sunday, 4 March. While making its way through a crowded civilian street, a US convoy was targeted by a suicide car bomber and then by small arms fire in what US officials would later describe as “a complex ambush.” US troops returned fire on their

“This malaise is found in the ugly disregard for Afghan lives when returning heavy gunfire into crowded civilian areas. It’s in the oppressive and highly suspect deletion of journalists’ documentation at point of force. And it’s in the blaming of militants for bringing death and destruction to Afghan civilians.”

attackers while attempting to flee the scene. Afghan witnesses allege that US troops fired indiscriminately, while US officials reported that Afghan civilians were unfortunately caught in a deadly crossfire. The final casualty count: 16 Afghans dead, 24 Afghans wounded; no Americans dead, but one wounded.

Lt Col David Accetta, a US military spokesman, released this statement: “We regret the death of innocent Afghan citizens as a result of the Taliban extremists’ cowardly act. Once again the terrorists demonstrated their blatant disregard for human life by attacking coalition forces in a populated area, knowing full well that innocent Afghans would be killed and wounded in the attack.”

The second such blunder came on the heels of the first: after documenting this attack on a US convoy and the subsequent US response, journalists and cameramen had their equipment confiscated by US troops. Their pictures and video footage were then deleted. The third of these incidents saw two 2000-pound bombs pulverize a family of nine. After coming under rocket fire, US troops spotted two men with Kalashnikov rifles entering a nearby compound. US troops called in an air strike to end the engagement. The family had been staying in the same compound.

Again, Lt Col Accetta responded, “Coalition forces observed two men with AK-47s ... entering the compound. These men knowingly endangered

civilians by retreating into a populated area while conducting attacks against coalition forces.”

There’s an underlying malaise of thought eating away at the possibility of peace and resolution in Afghanistan. This malaise is found in the ugly disregard for Afghan lives when returning heavy gunfire into crowded civilian areas. It’s in the oppressive and highly suspect deletion of journalists’ documentation at point of force. And it’s in the blaming of militants for bringing death and destruction to Afghan civilians. This hypocrisy reveals just how woefully skewed the use of force has become when little or no responsibility falls on the military who recklessly authorizes its disgustingly disproportionate use.

Each of these errors was deadly and tragic. They were also completely counterproductive. What’s more, the negative effects of American military blunders will fall to rest on the entire NATO-led coalition—Canada included—just as US errors in Iraq stung the British military and its other coalition partners.

All of this is bad news for the Afghan mission, and bad news for Canada in particular. It turns out the MSA was right, though perhaps not in the way they first thought. The dynamic of the Afghan mission is still being decided. But if the dynamic becomes more and more that of America’s Afghanistan, the risk is that Afghanistan will indeed become Canada’s Iraq.

# The West is in—finally



COLIN KEIGHER

In 1987, at the first major convention of the Reform Party of Canada, Preston Manning uttered four infamous words: “the West wants in.” With the recent release of population statistics gathered in the 2006 census, one can say that the West almost is.

Between 2001–2006, both British Columbia and Alberta grew to the point where their combined populations now almost equal Québec—7 403 837 to be exact, or just 142 294 short. In the next few years, Alberta itself will cause the balance in population to shift towards the West’s favour even further, and while the greatest number of people will still be in both Québec and Ontario—which rests at a combined 19.7 million, or about two-thirds of the country’s population—the voice of the lands beyond the Great Lakes will continue to become stronger.

Much of the population growth in Alberta has been intra-provincial—this author being one of the guilty parties. Our booming economy does not appear to be showing signs of slowing down any time soon, and that’s causing most other provinces’ growth to be either non-existent or reliant on immigration. For example, British Columbia’s population grew by over five per cent due to immigra-

tion, while Alberta’s grew by over ten per cent due to both intra-provincial increases and immigration combined.

So what does this mean for us out here in the West? Well, there’s still not going to be cause for much celebration any time soon. While we may be experiencing a population boom, it may take centuries before the total population of Western Canada will be of equal to that of its eastern counterparts. As well, even though BC and Alberta experienced positive growth, Manitoba only swelled its ranks by 2.6 per cent, and Saskatchewan, despite all of its quality-of-life advertisements, actually saw a 1.1 per cent decrease.

Ottawa can no longer ignore the fact that the balance of power is starting to equalize in some ways. As a Westerner, Stephen Harper can’t afford to lose the western provinces’ vote. Alberta didn’t give all 28 of its federal seats to the Conservatives to have nothing done, and there’s little chance of the party making much headway in Québec, as the Liberals and the Bloc will be dominant there for the foreseeable future. If future federal elections are going to be more reliant on votes from the western provinces, the parties that want the role of Prime Minister in their hands will need to be aware of what importance Western Canada plays in the national scene not only today, but as well as tomorrow.

Perhaps we can now say that the west is truly in, but both Ottawa and Western Canada will still need to leave the “friend zone” before its citizens can truly be represented in Parliament.

## THE BURLAP SACK

Have you picked up a copy of *See or Vue* lately? If so, then chances are you’ve been building a healthy rage at what they pass off as news coverage. Both of these publications carry a slant and lack of journalistic integrity that should make anyone sick.

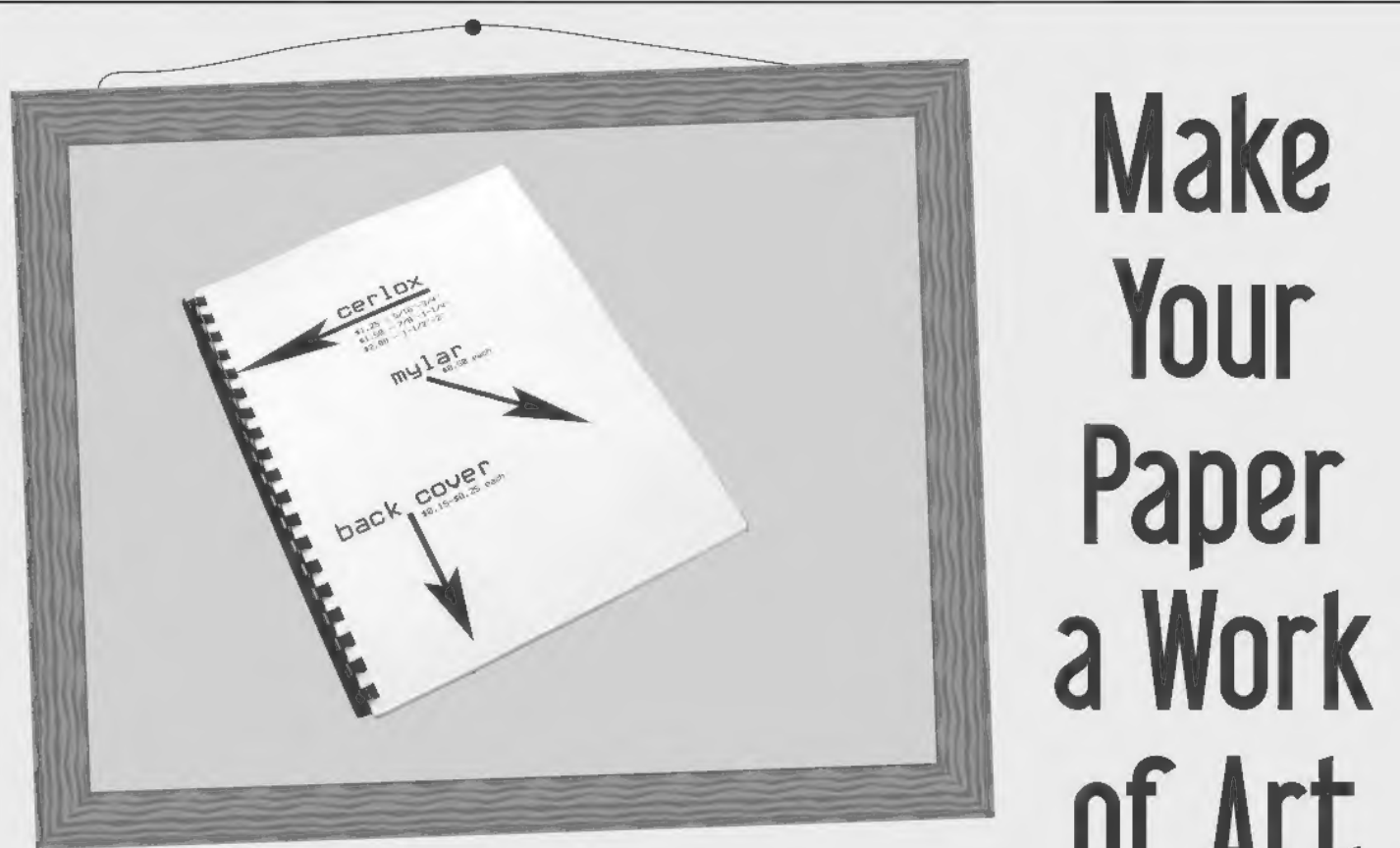
Now, some of our dear readers may not consider the *Gateway*’s news that important, since we focus on the University—and often times, let’s be honest, it’s not the most riveting stuff. However, at least the *Gateway* tries to show some integrity and to put the notion of accuracy and fairness above sheer entertainment value.

*Vue Weekly*, on the other hand, devoted an entire issue to attacking our former premier last September, even managing to turn a video game article against him. Now I’m no King Ralph lover, but that was just ridiculous.

Pick up just about any issue of *SEE* magazine and you’ll immediately be able to see how dangerously close they hug the line between opinion and news—a line that’s only further blurred when these slanted “news” briefs are more often than not unsigned.

The so-called news sections of these publications taint what limited credibility these magazines have as legitimate journalism, and everyone involved should feel responsibility. It makes one wonder if they even read what they write. Of course, they’ll have to get out the sack first before we can find out.

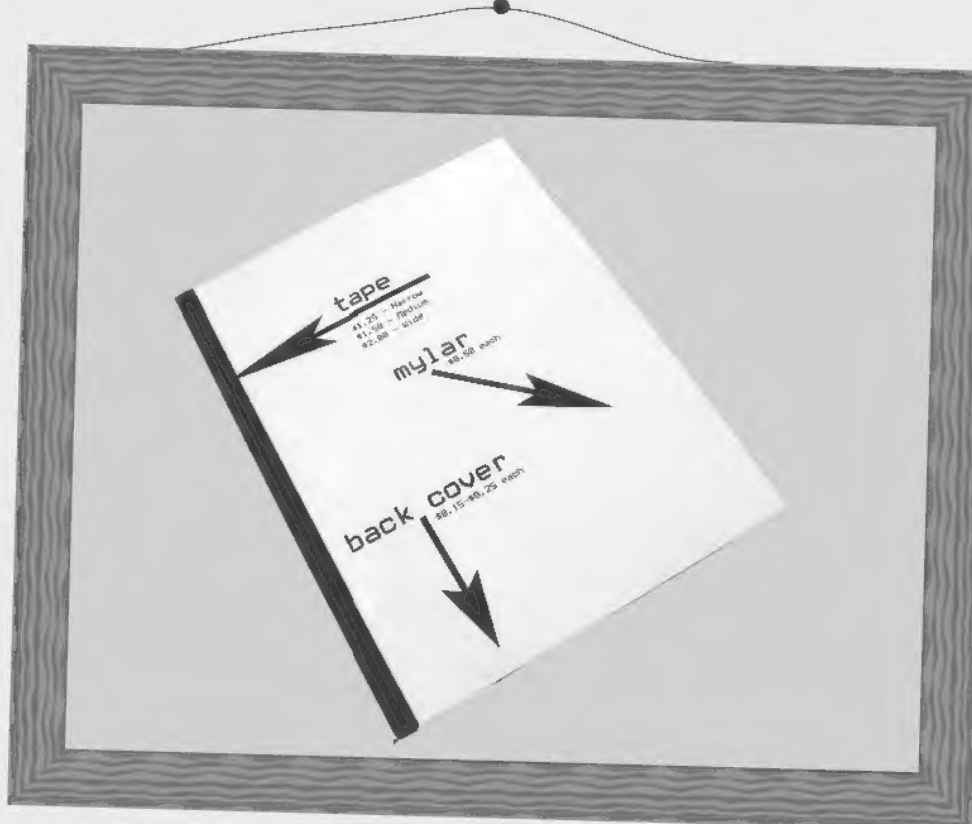
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# Give hookahs a chance

With \$200 000 down the drain, the SU can't afford not to try something new



ADAM GAUMONT

My first reaction when I heard that Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham bought four hookahs for the SU was, “What was he smoking?” After all, the last thing the SU needs is another frivolous expenditure, and the \$400 purchase was a big surprise to the other members of the Executive, who thought Cunningham’s suggestion was nothing more than a far-fetched idea.

But after coming down from my original indignation, it occurred to me that a hookah bar might be just the thing the Powerplant needs to pull it out of the dredges of object poverty and into the mires of regular poverty.

Unfortunately, the rest of the Execs didn’t share Cunningham’s visions, and the hookah plan will now die a short, painless death before it ever got a chance to flail around a bit. But with the Powerplant slated to lose over \$200 000 this year, I don’t see why the

Execs aren’t willing to give it a shot.

Just picture it: you walk in from the cold to what was once an innocuous coffee shop known as Dewey’s, through the velvet curtains into the main parlour. The host greets you with a knowing grin and leads you up the grand staircase, where rows of bubbling hookahs and low-lying furniture await. The scent wafts throughout the oversized warehouse, permeating the air and covering up whatever post-buffet stench remains.

While such a high-minded scheme may not replace hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost beer- and hamburger revenue, it’s at least something that would pique students’ interest. Hauling out another “hip redesign” or other costly renovation will only be met with snide indifference from most of this campus’ constituents, while what amounts to a hallucinogen-free opium den would at least draw people in out of sheer curiosity.

What the various proponents of Powerplant revitalization fail to see is that there’s actually nothing wrong with the building itself—it’s all about its reputation. Just eight years ago, the ’Plant made \$131 616, and it was in the black as recently as 2001.

Since then, however, profits have slid steadily downwards. But buffet

tables aside, nothing about it has really changed—that is, except students’ perception of it.

You can chalk up the relatively minor \$20 000–40 000 losses of years past to whatever you like: bad food, bad service, high rent, lame bands. But the massive six-digit downfalls mean that people just aren’t going there anymore. It’s a downward spiral: the ’Plant does shitty, less people go; less people go, the ’Plant gets shitter; eventually, people who used to dine there religiously haven’t been in months, while first years who’ve never set foot in there assume it’s some sort of haunted house full of sticky floors and broken VPOF dreams.

Sure, some of those people may flock to the lifeless conference room at the top of SUB instead, but the stigma surrounding that scary-looking brick building behind Dent-Pharm remains almost impossible to overcome. In order to get people to brave the long, lonely walk back through Quad, the SU needs to do something drastic—something that gets people talking again, even if only in an incredulous manner. That something might have been found last month in the form of big-ass herbal bongos, but thanks to the lack of vision by the rest of the SU’s honchos, we may never know.

# Vagina dialogue still needed



MARIA KOTOVYCH

Last week, three girls from John Jay Public High School in Cross River, a suburb of New York City, were suspended for saying the word vagina during a reading of Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*. The school principal had made the girls promise not to use the word vagina during the performance because there might be children in the audience, as he didn’t feel that this term was appropriate for their tender ears.

While it’s unclear whether the girls had actually promised not to say the word “vagina,” this prohibition was absolutely ridiculous in the first place—the girls shouldn’t have been put in a position where they were required to make such a promise at all. The word vagina isn’t dirty. It isn’t a swear. It’s an anatomic reference to a body part—you can’t get much less offensive than that. But by telling the girls that they can’t use an anatomically correct term for a part their body, the school turned “vagina” and its referent into something dirty and taboo, thus completely negating the empowering message of Ensler’s play.

This past Thursday was International Women’s Day. Some people might wonder why, in North America, we still need a special day for women. The incident in New York tells us exactly why: if the word vagina is seen as something that can’t be uttered in public, then it shows that female sexuality is still something that society sees as dirty and taboo.

A stigma still exists around female sexuality that just isn’t there for males.

A woman who has many partners or who enjoys sex is called a “slut”; no equivalent exists for a man of similar description. Then we have “cougar” to refer to older women who seek out younger men. To be fair, an older man who goes after younger women will still earn himself the title of “dirty old man”; however, the implication of predatory behaviour isn’t inherent in this title the way it is in its female counterpart.

**The word vagina isn’t dirty. It isn’t a swear. It’s an anatomic reference to a body part—you can’t get much less offensive than that.**

And let’s not forget all of the lovely ways in which a woman can be insulted: “whore,” “ho,” and my personal favorite, “cunt.” All of these terms are sexually based attacks at women, and the term “cunt” is a double-whammy: first, it slings an insult at her genitals, suggesting they’re dirty or disgusting. Then it insults the woman by using that term to refer to her.

Girls start to see society’s ignorant attitudes towards women’s sexuality when they’re quite young. My junior high school’s sex ed program was a joke. In Grade Nine, for example, my teacher’s idea of sex ed was telling us that “tampons can be used for birth control, as long as you have enough of them up there.” Later, in high school, we studied the reproductive system in biology class—and you’d think that the book would take a scientific approach to teaching anatomy. Yet I don’t remember any discussions about the clitoris when we studied the female reproductive system. It

certainly wasn’t brought up during classroom lectures.

Women’s sexuality is still seen through male-centric assumptions; nowhere is this more apparent than in pharmaceutical companies’ feeble attempts in treating female “sexual disorders.” Testosterone patches. Female Viagra.

Some groups are fighting to have female sexual dysfunction redefined and treated from a feminist perspective. These groups acknowledge that while there may be a physical cause for sexual dysfunction in some women, this purely physiological approach doesn’t take into account many other issues that could prevent women from fully enjoying their sexual experiences. Relationship problems; fatigue from having a career and doing the majority of the housework; insecurity over body image; or having a partner who is sexually selfish or controlling—these are just some factors that might cause a women not to enjoy sex. These are problems that can’t be fixed with a simple testosterone patch.

Other women might have anxiety, depression or a history of sexual abuse that prevents her from fully expressing her sexuality. Finally, a woman raised among cultural/social/religious attitudes that teach what she’s doing is “wrong” might also not be able to enjoy her sexual experiences. The current definitions of, and treatments for, female sexual orders puts too much emphasis on what is “wrong” with the woman and her genitals, while ignoring social and relationship factors (or her partner’s sensitivity or competence as a lover) that could affect her ability to enjoy sex.

Women’s concerns still have not achieved equality, at least not where sexuality is involved. So, as a starting point, I encourage everyone to open wide and say “vagina.” There—didn’t that feel good?

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